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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

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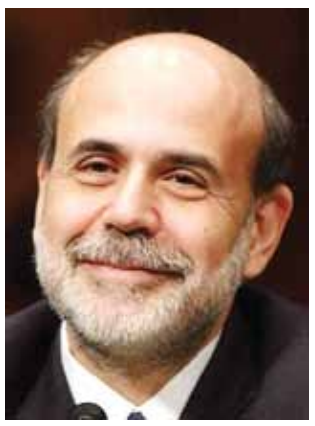
INSIDE



Optimistic

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gives his most optimistic prediction yet about the end of the recession.

BUSINESS...Page 15

New Kirk

Chris Pine walks through the Paramount Pictures studio lot like he owns the place.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Guard catches poker rob suspect during chase. **PAGE 5**

New facts about Marpi clearing surface at public hearing. **PAGE 6**

Denied Social Security applicants with '240K' permits called back

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Social Security Administration office on Saipan is calling back all "240K" CNMI immigration permit holders whose applications for Social Security cards were not accepted or denied starting January.

Leslie S. Walker, regional communications director of the Social Security Administration Region 9 office in California, said SSA now has "interim regulations" that allow the federal office to accept and process the Social Security card applications of 240K permit holders.

"People who were turned down before because they have 240K permits are now being asked to go back to see if they're eligible to receive a Social Security

See DENIED on Page 4

CONTACT INFO

U.S. Social Security Administration
- 2nd floor, MH-II Building, Garapan/Puerto Rico area.
- Telephone no.: 234-6203

NMC's Fernandez is renewed

Board of Regents approves new 4-year contract

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite criticisms raised against her, Dr. Carmen Fernandez has managed to secure a new four-year contract as president of the Northern Marianas College.

The NMC Board of Regents approved yesterday a new contract for Fernandez, this time extending her term from two to four years, with the same conditions and benefits stipulated in her original contract.

Fernandez

In a special board meeting yesterday, four regents voted to renew Fernandez' contract: Maria Malua Peter, who made the motion; Elaine Orilla, who seconded the motion; Dr. Rita Inos, who participated in the deliberation through teleconference; and board chair Charles Cepeda.

See FERNANDEZ on Page 4

CHC LACKS A GENERAL SURGEON AT PRESENT

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

All patients requiring major operations in the next few days will be referred off island because the Commonwealth Health Center has no general surgeon at present.

Pedro T. Untalan, Deputy Secretary for Hospital Administration, said yesterday the lone general surgeon at CHC, Dr. John Yarofalar, has been

See CHC on Page 4

Korean fugitive allegedly scammed victims of ₩422M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal authorities on Saipan recently arrested a Korean fugitive who allegedly defrauded several persons of over 422 million won (about $331,804) by telling them, among other things, that students could enroll at a four-year university on Saipan.

See KOREAN on Page 4

VISUAL DELIGHT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Zhao Zhi Yong marvels at the abstract paintings displayed at the first art exhibit by non-art students at Eucon International School and College in Gualo Rai yesterday. The exhibit, which is open to the public, will run until Saturday in the school's Agape Auditorium.

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Local

'Abolition of Article 12 not the solution to the economic crisis'

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If those who believe the CNMI Constitution's land alienation clause—Article 12—is discriminatory, then they must also believe that the Covenant agreement is discriminatory, according to a lawmaker.

Speaking at the regular meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb said that in order for people to fully comprehend the complexities of Article 12, it is equally important to assess the fundamental principles of the Covenant as a whole.

Tebuteb

"If Article 12 is discriminatory, is the Covenant agreement discriminatory as well? Although I may be able to vote for the U.S. President, via residing in the U.S. mainland, am I being discriminated against with my fundamental right to vote via my decision to remain in the CNMI?" he asked the crowd, adding that there are always different opportunities for people to do in life.

"The CNMI is not a territory of the U.S. The transformation of the definitions of our political system came from the United Nations in which the U.S. is a member of and thus our mutually consented agreement—the Covenant—is a political union with the U.S. The applicable provisions of the U.S. Constitution are not applicable to the CNMI in its entirety…there are only a few provisions applicable to us," Tebuteb said.

Article 12 restricts the sale of land exclusively to persons of Northern Marianas descent. Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986. That 25-year period will end in 2011.

Tebuteb believes that changes that will affect economic growth demands greater understanding of the CNMI's unique relationship with the United States.

"If Article 12 is the cause of the downturn of our economy, and it caused the airlines to pull out the CNMI, will the [abolition] of Article 12 improve the economic conditions we face?" he asked.

Tebuteb acknowledged, though, that many legitimate and valid concerns have been raised about the land alienation law.

Former House speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero also urged people to support the law's retention, saying there's a great need to "educate" the public and the community on what land alienation is all about.

David Sablan, a member of the group pushing for the abolition of Article 12, yesterday focused on one of the law's provisions that would prohibit his non-NMD grandson from inheriting and owning family land.

Sablan recommends creating a formal forum for the public to be properly informed on all issues and concerns related to Article 12.

2 'technical' students get Chamber scholarships

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Luis Pedro J. Arriola and Kevin A. Yamagata pose with Chamber members, officials, and guests after being awarded $1,500 scholarship grant each.

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two students of the Marianas Trades Institute were named as new scholars of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its regular meeting yesterday.

Luis Pedro J. Arriola and Kevin A. Yamagata were each awarded $1,500 scholarship grant, to be directly provided to the institute for the completion of their chosen technical course.

Arriola, 18, who is currently in the second phase of his plumbing course, was elated with the Chamber's decision.

"It's a good feeling when you know that despite the economic hardship, there is a group of people who is willing to help. With this scholarship, there's no doubt I could complete the program on time," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Arriola graduated last year from Saipan Southern High School. He has completed the institute's core curriculum and is currently enrolled in its plumbing program.

Arriola, who hopes to complete the program by next year, wants to become an entrepreneur.

Kevin Yamagata, a graduate of Mount Carmel School, has completed the institute's core curriculum and is now on the second phase of the electrical curriculum.

"I am so honored to be given this scholarship. It would further enhance my technical skills," he told the crowd.

Marianas Trades Institute director Vic Cepeda expressed the school's gratitude to the Chamber for letting the institute's students compete for the grants.

MTI, he said, is also attracting students who had earlier dropped out from high school.

At present, the school has a total of 140 students enrolled in various technical curriculums such as plumbing, cooking, auto mechanic, sewing, electrical, and carpentry.

According to Kathryn Barry, chairperson of the Chamber's education committee, the $3,000 total scholarship grants are funded through events such as the Corporate Challenge, golf tournament, and the Installation Dinner silent auction.

She said the two scholarships are in addition to the Chamber's scholarships for college-bound high school seniors, which will be awarded next month.

Another suspect in fake money case pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Another defendant indicted in federal court for passing fake money to some stores on Saipan has entered a guilty plea in federal court.

In Tuesday's hearing, Nestor Camacho Taitano pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy and two counts of passing counterfeit obligations.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set Taitano's sentencing for Aug. 11, 2009, and remanded him back to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service, with the help of local police, busted Taitano, Kisha Lyn Masga King, and Lucas Taitano Manglona in February for circulating counterfeit money.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto said the object of the conspiracy was to obtain merchandise and genuine U.S. currency as change from the transactions.

Taitano signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 12, 2009, King bought some items at the Tapo Fashion store with a $50 bill that she knew to be counterfeit, pursuant to an agreement with Taitano.

The understanding was that Taitano would give King the fake $50 and she would keep the item she purchased and return the change from the purchase to Taitano.

On the same day, King bought some items at the Fashion Avenue store with a fake $50 bill, using the same modus operandi.

Taitano gave King the fake money and she kept the item she purchased while returning the change to Taitano.

On the same day, with same agreement with Taitano, King bought gasoline at Koblerville Shell Station using a fake $50 bill.

Last February, King pleaded guilty to the same charges.

Police first discovered the passing of fake money on the island after Taitano and Manglona had a fight at their compound in San Vicente last January.

Responding police officers arrested Manglona after he admitted purchasing a pack of cigarettes and a lighter at Nang Ocha Store, knowing that his $50 was fake.

Benedetto stated in the indictment that the three used fake money on Jan. 12, 2009, to defraud at least four establishments—Koblerville Shell gas station, Tapo Fashion in Chalan Piao, Fashion Avenue in Chalan Kanoa, and Nang Ocha Store in San Vicente.

81 percent of gov't officials beat deadline for financial disclosures

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over 81 percent or 268 of 329 government officials filed their financial disclosures for calendar year 2008 by the May 1 deadline set by law, according to Public Auditor Michael Pai.

Many rushed to beat the deadline by filing their statement of financial interest during the third and fourth weeks of May because, as of April 20, only 150 or less than half of the certified required filers did so.

Pai said another government official submitted financial disclosure after May 1, and 60 more officials have yet to file theirs.

The Government Ethics Code Act of 1992 sets the deadline for filing verified statements of financial interest on May 1 of each year. However, filers are given a 30-day grace period to comply with the law.

"Beginning June 1, 2009, a penalty fee of $10 per day begins accruing for late filers," Pai said.

The 329 filers include elected officials, judicial officers, appointed department and agency heads, members of boards and commissions, and those who serve as independent contractors for the CNMI government.

Unlike many other jurisdictions, CNMI law does not make public financial statements. Thus, the assets and liabilities of elected officials are not readily available for public inspection. The Office of the Public Auditor can only release the documents with consent from the filer.

The public auditor himself was among the first ones to file his statement of financial interest for calendar year 2008.

Saipan to ink sister city accords with Davao, GenSan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Saipan will be forging next month sister city agreements with Davao and General Santos, two of the most populated cities in the Southern Philippines.

Mayor Juan B. Tudela said he is looking forward to establishing relations with these two cities.

Tudela had proposed the sister city relations with Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte via a letter dated March 30, 2009.

Tudela proposed the same agreement with General Santos City Mayor Pedro C. Acharon Jr. in a letter dated April 15.

"Indeed a host of opportunities accompany such an agreement, with emphasis on business endeavors benefiting both local economies," Acharon said in a response letter on April 28.

General Santos is known as the birthplace of Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao.

In his response to the proposal, Duterte gave a brief background of the economic gains of Davao as well as its physical location and tourism potential.

Duterte said Davao is home to 1.5 million diverse peoples from 10 different indigenous tribes, who are both Islamized and Christianized, and migrant settlers from all over the Philippines.

He also noted a significant Filipino-Chinese population and an emerging international community of expatriates.

"You are most welcome to come and visit Davao anytime. We have festivities every year," Duterte told Tudela.

The Davao Chinese New Year Festival is held in January-February at the world's largest Chinatown district.

The Araw ng Dabaw and Charter Day is held in March, Living Arts Festival and Ocean Month in May, the world's famous Kadayawan sa Davao Festival in August and the Pasko sa Dabaw in December.

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Fund asked to disclose travel and staff spending

Senate President Pete P. Reyes has asked the NMI Retirement Fund to disclose staffing and travel spending since Fiscal Year 2002, as well as the austerity measures taken to cope with declining revenues.

Reyes, in an April 27 letter to Retirement Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero, asked whether the pension system office has increased or decreased staffing since FY 2002. He asked for a yearly breakdown of the agency's staffing levels.

"What steps, if any, has the Fund taken to address declining revenues, and, specifically, what cost-reduction measures have been implemented?" Reyes asked Guerrero.

The Senate president also asked Fund to provide his office a "report detailing the travel history of any travel performed by either the staff of the Retirement Fund or the board members of the Fund from fiscal year 2002 to present."

As of yesterday, Reyes's office has yet to receive a response from the Retirement Fund, which separately confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* receipt of the request letter. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

KOREAN

From Page 1

Federal agents arrested 49-year-old Hyuk Jong Kwon after the U.S. government filed a complaint against Kwon last April 23 before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica F. Cruz filed the complaint based on the Republic of Korea's 2007 request to the U.S. to extradite Kwon for five counts of fraud.

During Tuesday's hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson granted the U.S. government's motion to unseal the case.

Munson set the extradition hearing for June 26, 2009. He denied defense attorney Bruce Berline's motion to temporarily release Kwon and remanded the detainee back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Cruz stated in the complaint that Kwon was charged with five counts of fraud in the Republic of Korea and that warrants of his arrest were issued in May 2005 by the chief prosecutor of the Seoul Western District Prosecutor's Office, Prosecutor Yong Hwan Jeong.

Cruz said that in September 2001, Kwon deceived Sa Ok Yoo by informing Yoo that he would help Yoo get the order for the construction of the American International University in Guam. Kwon informed Yoo that the land for the construction project had already been purchased.

Relying on false information, Yoo paid Kwon 170 million Korean won. AIU was never constructed.

In July 2004, Kwon allegedly deceived Chan Young Kim by providing information that International Business & Professional College (IBPC on Saipan) is four-year university.

Kwon also claimed that the students could obtain a U.S. beauty artist certificate after graduation and that Korean universities accept credits earned from IBPC.

He allegedly claimed that accommodations, meals and tuition are all free if the student pays a dormitory security deposit of 10 million Korean won and that the dormitory security deposit would be returned after graduation.

Çruz said Kim paid Kwon 10 million KRW.

In truth, Cruz said, the students taking IBPC courses only had 90-day travel visas, that Korean universities do not accept IBPC credits, and the students could not obtain a U.S. certificate of beauty artist after graduation.

In August 2004, Kwon provided the same false information about IBPC to Won Ho Kim, who gave Kwon 10 million KRW as dormitory security deposit.

From August 2004 to June 2005, Kwon received 80 million KRW from a total of eight victims.

After graduation, Kwon did not return Kim's dormitory security deposit.

In October 2004, Kwon falsely informed Jong Geun Kim that students who complete a course at the Oriental Medicine & Beauty Arts University (affiliated with IBPC) would receive a U.S. certificate of beauty artist.

Kwon convinced Kim to solicit students who wanted to take the IBPC course.

Relying on this information, Kim advertised the course and agreed to send Kwon money for the students' airfare and tuition.

From Oct. 29, 2004, to Dec. 7, 2004, Kim remitted a total of 18,410,000 KRW in airfare and tuition for the students.

Contrary to the promises, the students could not obtain a U.S. certificate of beauty artist after graduating from IBPC.

In October 2005, Kwon told Cha Bok Lee that if he invests 200 million KRW for the lease and operation of Magellan Hotel on Saipan, Kwon would return the principal and give Lee a house.

Lee paid 154 million KRW to Kwon. But contrary to his promises, Kwon did not have the funds to operate Magellan Hotel and did not return any of the investment.

CHC

From Page 1

on leave since Thursday last week and should return by next week. Yarofalar, who graduated from the University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine, is from Yap.

Because of this, Untalan said the Department of Public Health is actively looking for another fulltime general surgeon so that one would always be available in case the other is on leave.

The problem, he said, is that the CNMI is having difficulty recruiting needed hospital personnel. The two major obstacles are location and the smaller salary the CNMI is offering.

DPH is also currently looking for three anesthesiologists to complete the slot.

"Recruitment has always been a challenge for us," Untalan said.

The CNMI government offers its general surgeons only $180,000 per annum, compared to the $250,000 Guam offers.

He said private practitioners in Guam earn about $300,000 to $400,000.

In cases where the hospital lacks a suitable personnel, Untalan said the CNMI usually turns to Guam for assistance. However, Guam also currently lacks a general surgeon that they could send to Saipan due to the recent death of Dr. Eduardo Cruz.

There are no general surgeons in private practice in the CNMI.

"What we have are eye surgeons, anesthesiologists, EE&T [eye, ear, nose, throat] specialists," Untalan said.

For general surgery, DPH said it will make sure that all patients are referred to Guam, which is the nearest from Saipan.

DPH had been getting the services of Dr. John Fergurgur from Guam, who visits at the end of each month to provide coverage.

DENIED

From Page 1

card," Walker told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview yesterday.

But not all applicants with 240K permit holders are guaranteed to get their SS card application granted.

Among other things, they should be a legal resident and are authorized to work in the CNMI under a 240K status, said Walker.

The SSA office on Saipan, headed by district manager Bridgette M Camacho, started calling applicants back in on Tuesday.

Jack Woods, whose wife Erica's application for a Social Security card was denied because she holds a 240K permit, yesterday said when they were called back to the SSA office yesterday to submit a completed application form, "it took us less than five minutes inside."

"They told us we should be receiving the Social Security card in the mail in two to three weeks. My wife's application was denied in March and on Tuesday, they called us, and we came in Wednesday," Woods said.

Changes in immigration rules

When the CNMI immigration regulations were amended, many of those who were previously given a "706K" classification were provided "240K" permits.

Acting Immigration director Tony Sablan yesterday confirmed that the regulations took effect on Jan. 1.

But the change in the local immigration's classification of permit holders did not match with Social Security Administration's own categories and procedures. As a result, SSA stopped accepting applications from "240K" permit holders since the beginning of the year.

SSA Region 9's Walker said SSA had to write new procedures as a result of the CNMI Division of Immigration's decision to amend the regulations and change the classification of permit holders.

While SSA was reviewing and revising its procedures, the SSA Saipan office stopped taking in applications from those with 240K permits.

"We apologize for the delay caused. … The Saipan office now has what we call interim regulations they can use to accept and process applications of those with 240K permit. They now have a list of 240K persons legally admitted and have authorization to work. Now, the SS office is taking in applications to verify official documents," Walker added.

The U.S. Social Security Administration is an independent agency of the United States federal government that administers Social Security, a social insurance program consisting of retirement, disability, and survivors' benefits.

On Saipan, the U.S. Social Security Administration has its office on the second floor of the MH-II Building in the Garapan/Puerto Rico area. For more information, call 234-6203.

FERNANDEZ

From Page 1

Regent Janet King was the sole member who voted against the motion, while a newly appointed regent refused to cast a vote.

The meeting—called in at exactly 5:15pm—was attended by nearly 30 other individuals, mostly students.

Peter said the decision was made for "stability purposes." NMC is still working on re-affirming its accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The four-year contract was approved with the same salary schedule of $80,000 per annum plus an $800 monthly allowance, as provided in Fernandez's initial contract in 2007.

'Honored'

Fernandez said that she is "truly honored" by the board's decision.

She vowed to continue her work to reaffirm NMC's accreditation.

"I thank the board, the governor, the Legislature, the staff, employees, and students for their support to the institution," she said after the meeting.

When asked if she expected the decision, Fernandez said: "I just had to wait and see…for the board's decision, just like with our accreditation."

'Limited' rating

Prior to voting, each member was allowed to comment on the president's contract.

King reiterated her reasons for thumbing down the renewal of Fernandez's contract, citing the college president's "professional incapability" to deal with her as a regent.

She asked the board not to renew the contract and, instead, just provide a 60-day extension.

Fernandez was rated by board members on a scale of 1 to 5, which translates to "not acceptable," "limited," "satisfactory," "above satisfactory," and "outstanding."

Saipan Tribune learned that Fernandez got a "2" rating ("limited") from King. The regent said the NMC president failed to meet the goals of accreditation.

King had reportedly made the board aware since May 6—through a memorandum—that she will vote against renewing Fernandez's contract.

Yesterday, King admitted attending the board meeting even knowing there was not enough number to support the "no" vote.

She described her "no" vote as not personal but in line with her duty as an "objective" board of regent.

"I respect her personally, but professionally she did not meet my standards," she told the board.

Options

Newly appointed regent Juan Demapan suggested that the board consider approving only two years for Fernandez, saying the "contract issue" is sensitive.

Peter stood firm, however, in her motion for the board to act now on the president's four-year contract.

Inos pointed out that, regardless of what is stated in the contract, "please be aware that the board has always the option not to follow the term."

"We have the option to dismiss the president if she fails to satisfy the board in her performance. …We can say 'thank you' and 'no thanks' anytime," Inos added.

Regent chair Cepeda said that Fernandez did a "tremendous" job in addressing the accreditation concerns of the college.

He said the decision was made for the betterment of the college, its faculty, staff, and students.

Cepeda commended the board for coming up with a "unified" stand on the issue and emphasized that "everyone respects the opinion of each member."

'No comment'

The reaction to the vote was muted among a number of staff and employees interviewed by *Saipan Tribune,* moments after the decision was announced.

Their responses ranged mostly from "We don't want to comment" to "We respect the decision."

Ivan Mereb, president of the Associated Students of NMC, said, however, that the president's retention is good for the campus.

A lot of students, he said, favored the decision.

"I am happy to see that our Board of Regents is moving forward…for the betterment of the college. Many of our students were glad because in their heart, the decision to retain the president will help us in our efforts to finally move out from the show-cause status," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

A 9-year college employee said that, although there is still a lot to be done for accreditation, she is confident "the president can get it done."

The absence of faculty senate president Frank Sobolewski at the meeting posed a big question to many.

He was represented by a faculty representative, who said Sobolewski was still in class and couldn't make it.

Demapan appointed to NMC board

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has appointed Juan Demapan to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

Demapan, in his maiden attendance at a board meeting yesterday, refused to vote on the renewal of NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez's contract, saying he deems it improper to vote since he did not actually participate in any deliberation and evaluation of the president.

However, Demapan made a few comments during the meeting, suggesting a two-year contract for Fernandez, which was not granted in the end.

Demapan said he's excited to sit on the NMC board for the first time.

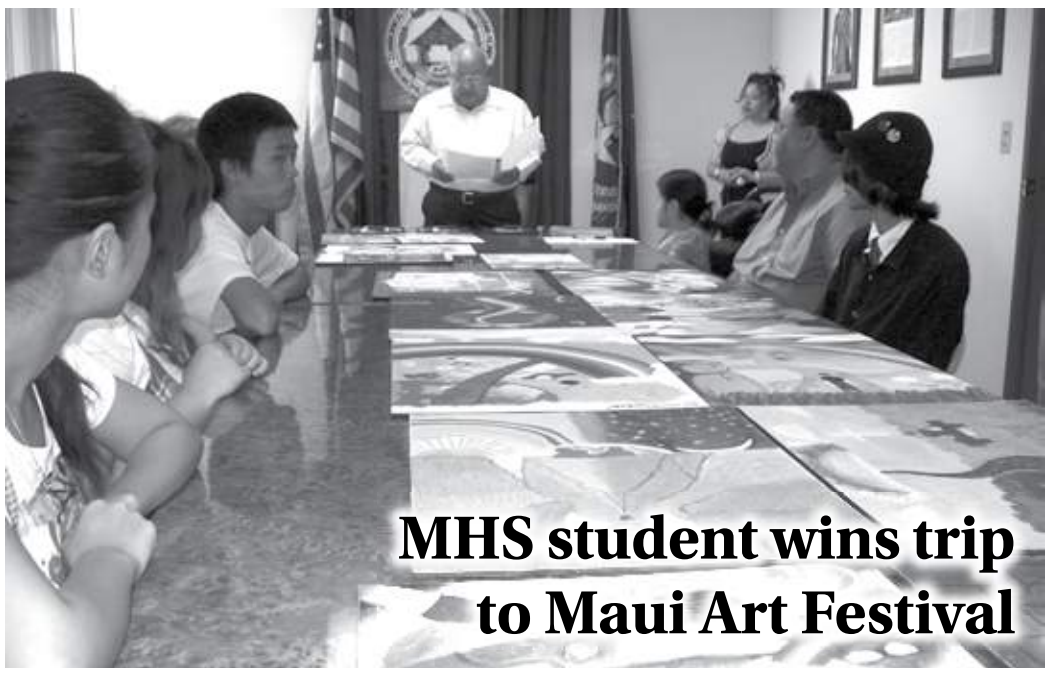
An engineer by profession, Demapan said it is his goal to assist the college to become a better institution that would help in the development of the local workforce.

Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda said he is counting on the "great ideas" of the new regent.

"With his abilities and great ideas…it's a great help for the board," Cepeda said.

Board members include Dr. Rita Inos, Elaine Orilla, Maria Malua Peter, and Janet King.

The board has one more seat to fill.



MHS student wins trip to Maui Art Festival

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Mayor Juan B. Tudela briefs students from Marianas High School who joined the art contest for a slot to represent Saipan in next month's Maui Art Festival. The winner Joseph Martin was not present at the awarding ceremony yesterday.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Fifteen-year-old Joseph Martin bested 13 other students from Marianas High School to win for himself a trip to next month's Maui Art Festival.

Mayor Juan B. Tudela announced the winners of the painting contest during a simple ceremony at his office yesterday morning. This year's contest theme was "The Pathway to Peace."

Martin's artwork was titled "The Journey up the Sun." His awards include a trophy, gift certificates from McDonald and Saipan World Resort and a cash prize.

Joining him in Maui, Hawaii, for the art festival on June 8-11 are second placer Richard Ken Matsuyama and third place Granada Earllon.

Matsuyama's artwork was titled "Choosing the Right Path to Peace" while Earllon's was titled "Freedom is Not Free"

Jason Anthony D. Quibldt was given the Honorable Mention Award with his "Walk Together."

The four winners all received prizes from McDonald's and Saipan World Resort.

The other students who joined the contests were Leni Joy Cruz ("My First Drawing"), Dae Hwan Jung ("Difficult Times"), Diego Camacho ("A Long Red Brick Road"), Mar Anthony Peter Hosono ("Choices"), Panidta Torres ("Trailing Tranquility"), Michelle Camacho ("Paradise of Peace"), Andy Tse ("Rainbow Road to Heaven"), Keneisha Parks ("Serenity in Midst of Chaos"), Christine Tokiko Rengiil ("Sight of Journey"), and Jeric Maglonzo ("Guardian Angel's Path").

MHS Principal Karen Borja, who accompanied the students, thanked the Mayor of Saipan for this annual activity.

It would be the third time since 2005 that Saipan will send representatives to the Maui Art Festival, the same year when the sister city agreement between the two was established.

"Good job, students. This is an annual event that my office has always been asked to sponsor. I have been always upbeat to host this contest and excited to award the prizes," said Tudela, who expressed appreciation to the support given by McDonald's and Saipan World Resort.

Guard catches poker rob suspect during chase

Poker arcade robbed thrice in two years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An alert security guard chased and caught a man who reportedly had just robbed at knifepoint a poker establishment in Chalan Kanoa early yesterday morning.

The Smile Poker game room was first robbed in April 2007. The same arcade was twice robbed again in the past two months.

Responding police officers in yesterday's incident placed the suspect under arrest. Patrol officers managed to recover at the scene $121 in cash and the weapon used, a knife.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said the suspect's identity will be released to the media at a later date pending further investigation.

David said DPS received a call that Smile Poker had been robbed yesterday at 4:45am.

Preliminary investigation showed that a male suspect, wearing a brown fisherman's hat and a white piece of cloth concealing the bottom portion of his face, entered the poker establishment.

The suspect forcefully demanded money from a female poker player.

After getting money from the customer, the suspect proceeded to the cashier's booth where he demanded money from the cashier.

The cashier opened the cash box, grabbed a handful of bills and threw them out from the booth's window.

The suspect picked up the money and ran outside. The customer who was earlier robbed ran to her car and honked the horn, calling for help.

The establishment's security guard chased the robber. The customer followed the two, who were running north on a secondary road.

The security guard managed to catch up and subdue the suspect near Sablan's Apartments. Police officers arrived and placed the suspect under arrest.

David said Smile Poker was also robbed last April 3, during which the suspect, armed with a blunt object, used the same mode of operation.

In April 2007, a security guard was injured when three men staged an armed robbery at the same establishment. Police later arrested four suspects—Fernando Quitano, Christopher Lee Muna, and Joseph San Nicolas alias Jun Dagu, and Martin P. Cepeda.

Grants writing workshop for govt employees

A grants writing workshop will be held for government employees, according to Dr. Peter C. Eche, a training consultant from the Office of Personnel Management.

The first session will be held on May 18 and 19, from 9am to 4pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The second session will be held on May 21 and 22 on the same time and venue.

Eche, in a memorandum to all department and activity heads, said Dr. Judith Clark of the Hawaii Youth Services Network will conduct the workshop, through a coordinated effort with the Department of Public Works' Division of Energy.

Nominees of government departments are asked to see Maxima Cruz, training coordinator, for registration because seats are limited. The last day of registration is May 11.

In an earlier memorandum, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reminded department and activity heads to consult with Eche on all matters pertaining to the training of government employees under their respective offices.

"On-island and off-island training programs must be approved by Dr. Peter Eche's training office to ensure employee training effectiveness and overall organizational accountability for our government," the governor said.

Eche may be reached at the Office of Personnel Management office in Garapan or through 233-9037. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Port of Saipan
CAPT. GEORGE F. FLEMING MEMORIAL BUILDING
Phone: (670) 664-3550 Fax: (670) 322-4710
E-Mail Address: cpa.portadmin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID
Bid No. CPA SS-09-V

"Sale of Government Property"

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is inviting interested individuals or firms to bid on the following vehicle:

2002 Ford Explorer 5WGN 6 Cylinder Engine

Interested individuals or firms may pick-up the general information and forms at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Port of Saipan building at the Seaport. Bidders are also advised to inspect the property. All interested bidders should submit bid documents no later than May 15, 2009, 4:00 p.m., to:

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
Saipan International Airport
2nd Floor Arrival Building

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director

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New facts about Marpi clearing surface at public hearing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

New facts concerning the clearing of 62 hectares of land in Marpi of unexploded World War II ordnance surfaced during Tuesday night's public meeting, including the absence of any major siting permit, federal funding of $550,000 and not $350,000, and mistrust over the Department of Public Lands' repeated statement that there's no plan to immediately develop the area into a homestead due to lack of funding for needed infrastructure.

The over two-hour public meeting, organized by Ed Propst and other concerned citizens, was held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Rep. Tina Sablan said DPL has been giving out homestead lots without readily available power, water, wastewater and roads just like what happened in Kagman, Koblerville, and just last week, on Tinian.

"The fact of the matter is DPL and its former life, MPLA [Marianas Public Lands Authority], has distributed homesteads even without infrastructure being in place. There's history of that happening; in fact, it's happening now on Tinian," she said.

On April 30, DPL held a drawing of lots for 429 families on Tinian. Most areas where the homesteads are located do not have power, water and wastewater systems.

Franz Reksid, Brownfields project manager for DPL, reiterated Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario's statement that the vegetation clearing in Marpi is purely to excavate unexploded ordnance and the public will get a chance for input on any future homestead development.

Sablan

Over 20 individuals showed up at the public meeting. They included private citizens and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Michael Mann and Pankaj Arora, Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman, Coastal Resources Management director Dr. Jon Joyner and DPL representatives.

DPL only applied for—and was granted—an earthmoving permit by DEQ. It has not applied for a major siting permit with CRM. A public hearing is required for any major siting permit application.

DEQ's Rabauliman and CRM's Joyner said during the meeting there's no major siting permit issued for the project.

Pankaj Arora of EPA's Brownfields Program, said EPA granted DPL $350,000 in 2006 for site assessment, and another $200,000 in 2008 for the cleanup.

He said when applying for the Brownfields grant, DPL specified homestead development as end use. He said the end use could be something else and EPA will review it just the same, knowing that the focus is the cleanup of hazardous ordnance.

Arora said the end use of the site is an issue for the local community to decide.

He, however, said the agencies involved could have done a better job in public outreach, adding that he recommends DPL continue open communication with the public.

"They could have done better, possibly, but outreach is one issue; another is homesteading, which is a totally different issue," he said.

Residents said DPL could have informed the community of its true intent in clearing up the scenic area leading to Suicide Cliff in Marpi before bulldozers started showing up and clearing vegetation.

Glen Hunter, a private citizen, asked Arora during the public meeting whether there's a way for EPA to stop funding the Marpi clearing and put the money to another project.

But Arora said there's no benefit in stopping the unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal now, and that funding for the assessment and cleanup had already been granted.

John Scott, president of AMPRO, which DPL contracted to clear the site of UXO, told meeting participants about 40 percent UXO clearance at the site.

Ruth Tighe and other private citizens present at the meeting said they want the area currently being cleared of UXO to be revegetated or brought back to what it was before, and not developed for homestead. Others want it to be converted into a park.

DPL asked whether the residents present at the meeting represent the will of "4,000 homestead applicants" on Saipan.

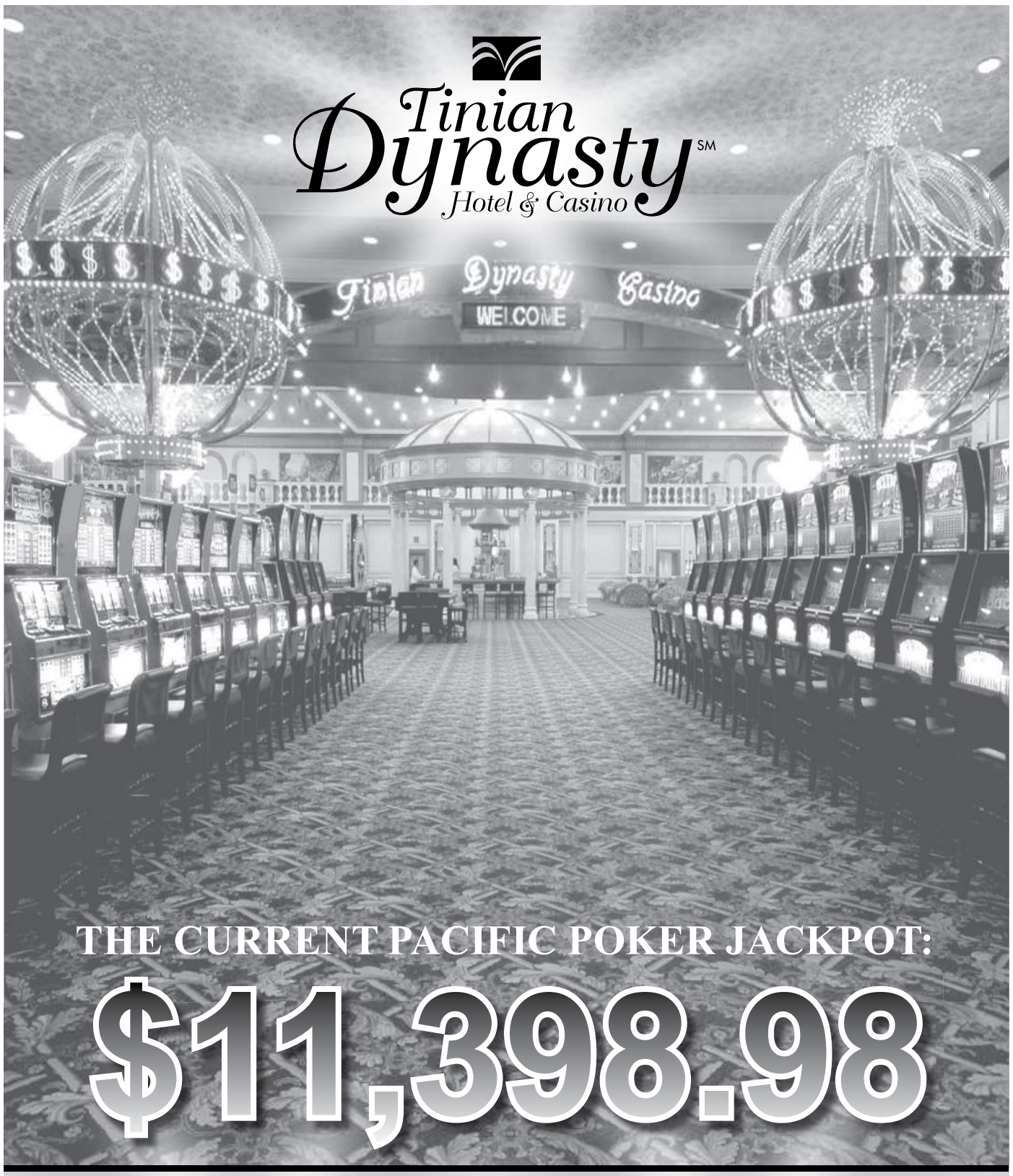
Taotao Tano president Greg Cruz Jr. asked whether Rep. Tina Sablan could introduce a bill that will restrict development of the Marpi area. Sablan said public input will be needed.

"Just like we shouldn't be rushing to turn that area into homestead, we also shouldn't be rushing to make it a park or rushing to make it a condominium. There should be at least the opportunity to engage the community," she said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb, chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said a similar public meeting on the Marpi clearing will be held tonight at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

The Marpi area being cleared of UXO is large enough to develop approximately 500 homesteads. AMPRO said the Marpi area is the most heavily concentrated area of unexploded ordnance on Saipan.

The U.S. military used the area immediately after the capture of Saipan during World War II. It was used to store thousands of tons of ordnance for the impending invasion of the Japanese mainland. In the 1950s, the U.S. Army attempted to dispose of the munitions by blowing them up in place, but it was only partly successful, leaving the area with unexploded ordnance, according to the biological assessment of the area.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPS-090

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 18, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES / 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - TINIAN & 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-CHC-082

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"MEDICAL COORDINATOR PROVIDER IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M. ON MAY 18, 2009 AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM. **ALL INQUIRIES** MAY BE DIRECTED TO **MR. RONALD D. SABLAN**, MANAGER, MEDICAL REFERRAL SERVICES BY FAX TO (670) 236-8604 OR VIA E-MAIL AT cmedrefspn@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **MAY 21, 2009 CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

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/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

DPH advises: Keep two-week supply of food

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health is advising residents to store a two-week supply of food, keep medicines at home, and prepare other emergency plans, even as the pandemic alert level in the CNMI remains at Phase 5.

According to World Health Organization definitions, phase 5 means the virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in at least two countries in one WHO region and a pandemic is considered imminent. Phase 6 is the highest level.

Latest report from the DPH Emergency Operations Center says the CNMI is not affected yet.

DPH, however, advises parents not to send their children to school if they are sick, especially those with cough and fever. Sick adults, particularly those with cough and fever, should also not attend work.

In its latest health advisory issued yesterday, DPH reiterated that the H1N1 flu virus is a rapidly evolving situation and current guidance and other contents may vary in how this new H1N1 flu virus is referred to.

It was first called swine flu because laboratory tests showed that many of the genes were very similar to flu viruses that normally occur in pigs in North America. Further study showed that the new H1N1 flu virus is different from what normally circulates in North American pigs.

The new virus has two genes from the flu virus that normally circulate in pigs in Europe and Asia and avian genes and human genes.

A total of 226 cases of human infections in 30 states in the U.S. mainland has been confirmed. Mexico, which is considered the epicenter of the virus, has confirmed 506 cases.

As of 8am yesterday morning, DPH said there was no type A flu cases reported by the department's six sentinel sites, which include all Commonwealth Health Center clinics, Marianas Medical Center, Medical Associates of the Pacific, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center.

DPH assured that there is an adequate supply of medicines to treat individuals who have severe flu illness.

It said that because this is a new virus, most people will have no immunity to it and so illness may be more severe and widespread as a result.

DPH reminds the public that this virus is not transmitted by food and that a person cannot get H1N1 flu from eating pork and pork products.

CONTACT INFO

DPH hotline: 236-8797/99, from 6am to 6pm
E-mail: cnmipheoc@gmail.com
Web site: www.cdc.gov/swineflu

STEPS TO OBSERVE

Flu W.A.T.C.H. steps to observe to protect one's health and lessen the spread of the flu virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze. Hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Avoid sick people and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Teach others how to prevent the flu.
- Cover your cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your sleeve not your hands! Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.
- Have an emergency plan ready and keep a two week supply of food and emergency supplies and medicine at home.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health

Quick tips on preventing the flu

In light of the recent news that has been sweeping the nation regarding the swine flu outbreak, the American Red Cross would like to encourage the public to practice these common sense steps to stop the spread of germs:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid or minimize contact with sick people (a minimum three feet distancing is recommended).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissues when you cough and sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow.
- Stay away from others as much as possible when you are sick.
- Adopt business/school practices that encourage employees/students to stay home when sick.
- Get a flu shot every year. Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to minimize illness and death.
- Adopt business/school practices that encourage Employees/students to stay home when sick.
- Tips on what to do when someone in your household is sick:
- Designate one person as the caregiver.
- Keep everyone's personal items separate. All household members should avoid sharing pens, papers, clothes, towels, sheets, blankets, food or eating utensils unless cleaned between uses.
- Disinfect doorknobs, switches, handles, computers, telephones, toys and other surfaces that are commonly touched around the home or workplace.
- Wash everyone's dishes in the dishwasher or by hand using very hot water and soap.
- Wash everyone's clothes in a standard washing machine as you normally would.
- Use detergent and very hot water and wash your hands after handling dirty laundry.
- Wear disposable gloves when in contact with or cleaning up body fluids.

For more information ABOUT the swine flu, visit the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov. For other disaster and emergency preparedness tips, visit the American Red Cross website at www.RedCross.org. ***(ARC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DEQ-091

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 22, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-CGC-087

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 28, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"PROFESSIONAL CLINIC SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MS. JOSEPHINE T. SABLAN, DIRECTOR OR MS. JENNIFER FUREY-MARATITA, ACTING CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER BY FAX TO (670) 323-6580 OR VIA E-MAIL AT cgc1@dphcgc.com NO LATER THAN **MAY 18, 2009 CLOSE TO BUSINESS.**

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/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

Mount Carmel School

7th Annual
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Laolao Bay West Course
Date of Tournament is Saturday,
May 09, 2009
Registration Time: 06:30 a.m.
Tee Time: 07:30 a.m.

DONATION: $100.00
(includes Green/Cart fees, prize & banquet)

Trophies and other gift prizes will be given to top three winners of each flight category (Championship, A-Flight, B-Flight, C-Flight, Seniors, and Ladies).

Awards and Banquet will be held following the tournament at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Course.

For more information, you may call Louise Concepcion at 235-1285 or Margaret DelaCruz at 235-1251.

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COME HELP SUPPORT THE ONLY CATHOLIC SCHOOL ON SAIPAN

Emergency responders recognized

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has designated May 17-23 as EMS Week to recognize the valuable accomplishments of Emergency Medical Service providers in the CNMI.

Fitial signed the proclamation Tuesday during which he also declared May 20 as Emergency Medical Services for Children Day.

As a vital public service, members of the Emergency Medical Service teams are always ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The CNMI Emergency Medical Service teams responded to a total of 4,520 calls in 2008.

"Access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury," the proclamation stated.

The Emergency Medical Service system in the CNMI consists of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, and administrators.

The teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills, the proclamation stated.

Fitial also signed the proclamation declaring May 20 as EMS for Children's Day, recognizing efforts in promoting the high level of emergency care given by EMS providers with pediatric emergency skills.

The proclamation states that the needs of children are different than the needs of adults in medical emergencies.

The EMS teams responded to a total of 474 calls for pediatric care in 2008.

EMS providers for children work closely with physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, and administrators to identify and address the issues surrounding the provision of optimal pediatric care.

They assists in the development of training programs and guidelines for emergency care providers so that children with special care needs receive timely and appropriate care.

"It is proper and timely to bring recognition to the value and accomplishments of such dedicated men and women by designating EMS for Children's Day," the proclamation stated.

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NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY
THRIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

What is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

In 2006, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services launched an annual national initiative called "National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day." Awareness Day is designated as a day in May of each year to coincide with May as Mental Health Month. This day presents an opportunity for children's mental health initiatives within SAMHSA to promote positive youth development, resilience, recovery, and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families.

The theme of Awareness Day is "Thriving in the Community." Children's mental health initiatives will hold similar events and other activities throughout the country to build awareness that children's mental health needs are real and that progress is being made toward developing effective strategies for achieving the vision of a life in the community for everyone.

It's more than...
Just a "bad day"
Just a "phase"
Just "being naughty"

For more information contact NMPASI
235-7273/4 (voice) 235-7278 (TTY)
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Paid for by the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program, through funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). The contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA/CMHS. Total Cost: $

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 7, 1999

New takeover bid

In its continuing attempt to control CNMI's labor and immigration functions, President Clinton's special representative to the 902 talks has offered a new package of proposals that would apply US laws on immigration, minimum wage and customs in the Northern Marianas. In a letter to Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, Edward B. Cohen outlined steps Washington could implement if the federal government assumes jurisdiction of the immigration and minimum wage policies of the Commonwealth. Cohen said the proposal drafted for Clinton was presented to the local government to solicit their input before it is submitted to the US Congress. There was no immediate reaction from the Tenorio administration.

DOLI gets poor rating from businessmen

Inefficient, very slow, prejudiced and too bureaucratic—this was how the members of Saipan Chamber of Commerce rated the performance of the Department of Labor and Immigration. Unfortunately, DOLI Secretary Mark Zachares was not there to clarify various issues, namely the never-ending delays in the processing of documents, bonding fees, deportation of nonresident workers, amnesty, and the influx of undocumented immigrants to the CNMI. Chamber members expressed disappointment when Zachares canceled his scheduled talk during its monthly Wednesday meeting.

MAY 7, 2001

More contaminants unearthed

Additional sampling and assessment measures are necessary to completely address contamination concerns originating from the Puerto Rico dumpsite following the discovery of a number of other low-level contaminants. Although the contaminants do not endanger public health and the environment, Earth Tech Inc., has recommended a more extensive round of sediment sampling and total closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite to prevent any leaching of contamination. The Environmental Site Assessment for the Puerto Rico said closure of the dumpsite according to federal standards will result in the cessation of any leaching problem and concerns of contamination earlier raised by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

It's back to school for Kagman kids

Kagman community members heaved a sigh of relief Saturday after findings of a Guam-based air-quality specialist labeled the presence of fibers inside some Kagman Elementary School classrooms a non-health risk. With this development, the school administration announced it will resume regular class sessions starting 7:30am until 3pm Tuesday, May 8, after faculty and staff finalize last-minute campus clean-ups today. Students attending the new Kagman public school are expected to report to class until June 21, according to its principal Ignacia Demapan.

MAY 7, 2002

CPA bites the travel crunch

Revenues generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority from its aviation division dropped 5 percent during the first six months of financial year 2002, reflecting a decline in overall passenger traffic at the islands' air transport facilities. A report obtained from the CPA disclosed that aviation revenues dropped to $7.01 million in the period covering October-March 2002, compared with the $7.4 million recorded during the same period last year. The CPA report attributed the overall drop in aviation revenues to lower enplanement fee collections, reduced landing and parking fees, fuel flowage, and incinerator services.

CUC revives fuel surcharge plan

With the continuous increase in fuel prices, the comptroller of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation emphasized the need to implement a fuel surcharge program that would levy on the customers' billings oil price adjustments that increase operational cost. Saying that such a program is "more in line with the times," comptroller Rufo T. Mafnas said supporting such a program is "more fiscally prudent," as he also disclosed that the improvement in the CUC's financial condition was due to reduced fuel cost. "For the past three months, CUC had been experiencing a per gallon fuel cost of approximately 61 cents; Mobil recently raised the price of fuel to 69 [cents], a spike of about 13 percent," Mafnas said. "Given our historical experience of fuel cost, CUC should anticipate and prepare for higher fuel prices."

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

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DANDAN SUPERMARKET TEL.: 235-6016 MON, THRU SAT, 8:00A.M.- 9:00P.M.

HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-7596 MON, THRU SUN, 8:00A.M.- 11:00P.M.

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50 lbs. Salt Block

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Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm/Sunday 8am - 5pm

SUSUPE BRANCH Joeten Shopping Center Beach Road, Susupe Tel: 234-3117 or 6448 - Fax: 235-7568

GUALO RAI BRANCH Gualo Rai Commercial Center Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH San Vicente Road Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 109

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EDITORIAL

A tale of two scares

The recent salmonella outbreaks in peanuts and pistachios revealed a lot about the inability of the Food and Drug Administration to nip such problems in the bud. The FDA is responsible for "protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of ... our nation's food supply," yet it doesn't have the authority to order product testing, require that test results be shared with the agency or issue a mandatory recall when a facility moves too slowly—if at all—in getting tainted products off the shelves. Legislation to augment its authority is flowing through Congress like peanut butter. The concern is such that private companies and nonprofit groups alike have been pressing for action on food safety legislation in recent meetings with congressional leaders.

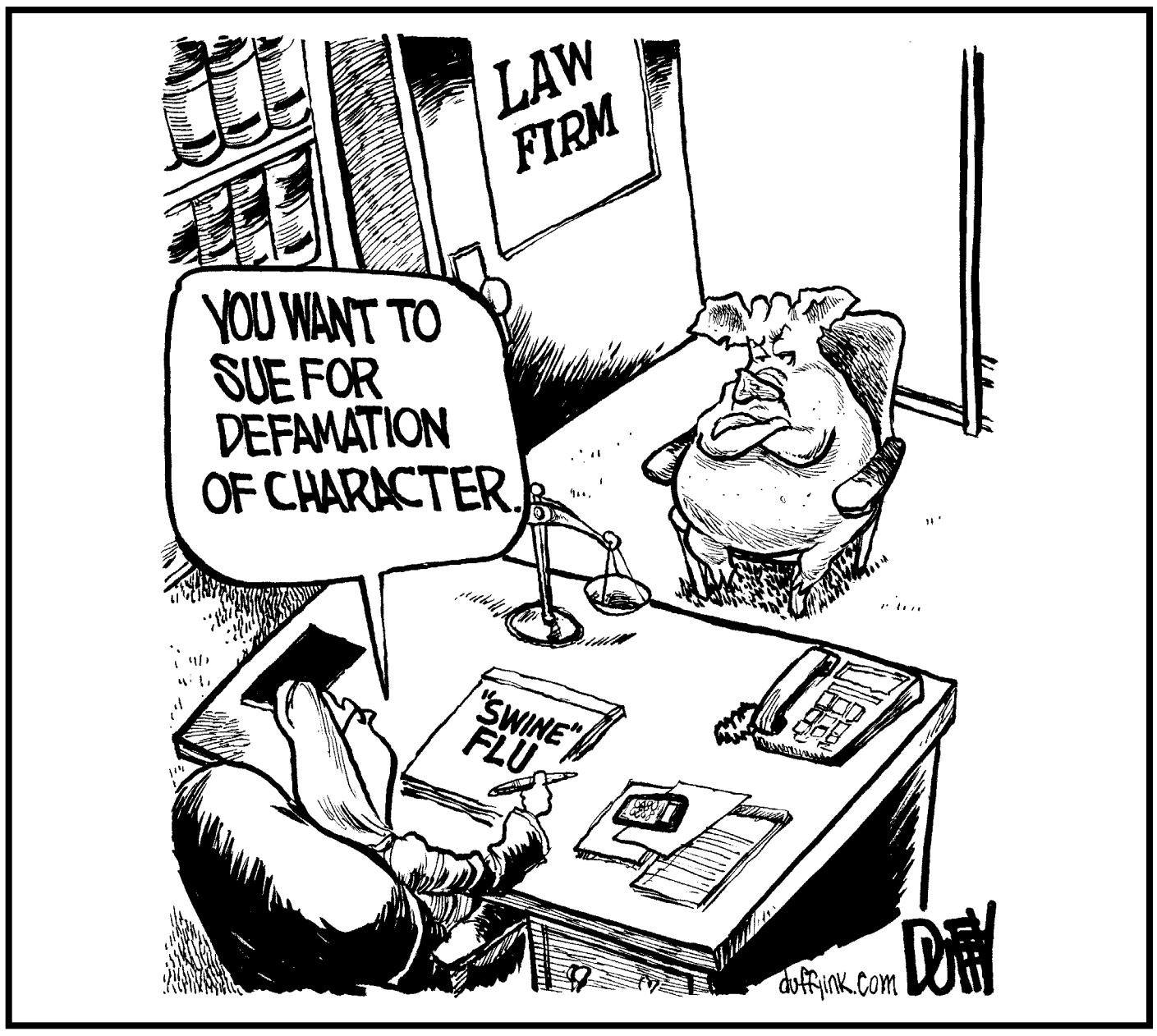
Thank the aggressive food safety system at Kraft Foods for last month's recall of the entire 2008 pistachio crop of Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella in California. Internal testing by Kraft between December 2007 and last month found salmonella in a trail mix made from those pistachios. Kraft voluntarily informed the FDA of the positive salmonella test results on March 23 after it was able to link them to Setton's pistachios. There have only been two complaints of illness and no deaths reported.

This stands in contrast to the alleged behavior of Peanut Corporation of America. While it conducted tests of its peanuts, the Georgia-based company allegedly shopped around for the test results it wanted. Tainted products were said to have been shipped out at the behest of the company's president, who invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination when he was hauled before congressional hearings in February. The salmonella strain led to the largest product recall in American history. The tainted peanuts have been linked to 691 illnesses in 46 states and are believed by the FDA to have contributed to nine deaths.

With each successive food scare, the clamor for action grows louder. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report that calls for new efforts to revamp food safety. Congress has done nothing to move substantial legislation forward that would give the FDA the authority it would need to more effectively safeguard the food supply. A bill from Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo. would require the agency to devise a program that would allow it to trace food from farm to fork. The Food and Drug Administration Globalization Act, sponsored by Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Mich., would require product testing with results to be simultaneously reported to the company and the FDA. It would also give the FDA the power to issue a mandatory recall.

Overall, the safety of the nation's food supply is strong. But each salmonella outbreak serves to highlight its deficiencies—deficiencies that could be repaired.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



The toughest job in the world

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted: Requires some expertise as an adviser, counselor, teacher, tutor, coach, event planner, time manager, cheerleader, chauffeur, nutritionist, and health specialist. In addition some janitorial skills required, and fast food preparation mandatory. Some crafting skills are helpful. The person applying must be able to communicate clearly and have a lot of patience.

Hours: The hours are long, and the breaks are few. Must be on call 24/7.

Pay: On a volunteer basis. Little if any monetary payment. No vacation or sick leave.

So are you ready to sign up? There are some jobs that are so demanding that only a few people would dare apply. Hardly anyone in their right mind would want to subject themselves to such a rigorous schedule day in and day out, yet millions of people do it every day. If you haven't guessed it by now, we're describing some of the duties and responsibilities that a mother has to fulfill in her multifaceted role.

With Mother's Day coming up soon, we wanted to give credit to the often silent and unsung heroes of society. The impact of a mother's love and care for her children is difficult to measure, but undeniably important as children are nurtured in a loving home environment.

Mothers form the heart and soul of a family, and the family is the nucleus of society. If that nucleus is tampered with, the whole fabric of society begins to unravel. Some have tried to demean the role and function of mothers, almost to the point of vilifying those who desire to place motherhood over livelihood. Others are able to juggle work, school, and still do an excellent job raising their children. As nice as it may be to have a prestigious job and title, there is no other success that can compensate for failure in the home.

The role of a mother is much more than the mere physical delivery of a child into the world. Imagine what your life would have been like without the love and support of your mother. Even after a child is reared to adulthood, that love is still constant and often provides the silent strength for children to take on life's challenges. The sacrifices a good mother makes for her children often go unrecorded and unnoticed.

I remember one school day when I missed the bus and Mom offered to take me in our Ford Pinto. Since I was late, she did not have time to take her curlers out of her hair, so she jumped in the car with her bathrobe and slippers. She decided to take the shortcut to save time; however, a lot of rainfall caused the dirt road to become muddy. As we entered a gully that was only a few hundred yards from the school, the Pinto got stuck in the mud. The wheels spun and Mom did not want me to get covered in mud pushing the car, so she told me to walk the rest of the way to school so I wouldn't be late.

Later, I learned that when she got out of the car she stepped into some mud and lost one of her slippers. She had to walk over a mile through town in her bathrobe, curlers, and wearing only one slipper. It must have been an interesting sight to people, but it demonstrated to me at the time the sacrifice she was willing to make for me, and it made a powerful enough impression on me to remember it and tell you about it 37 years later.

You can probably think of numerous times when your mother has unselfishly done something for you. It might even happen every day, but it may not have registered with you because it has become expected.

Like we mentioned earlier, there are many roles that your mother has taken on in her desire to be responsible and raise her children properly. These have often been performed without expecting a simple thanks or a show of gratitude. Even with all the roles and responsibilities that challenge mothers, there are also few jobs that can be as rewarding and can have an impact that lasts a lifetime.

This Mother's Day, think of all the things your mother does to bless your life. How much more difficult would life be if she was not there for you? If you are blessed to have your mother still living, make sure you let her know how you feel. Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers of the world who take on the toughest job they'll ever love.

"Nobody knows of the work it makes
To keep the home together.
Nobody knows of the steps it takes,
Nobody knows—but Mother."—Anonymous

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Shot full of myth

By RYAN COLLER
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Coller is a physician and incoming chief resident in pediatrics at the University of California, Los Angeles' School of Medicine.

A mother gently places her beautiful 1-year-old boy on the examining table, unwrapping his soft, blue blanket. To my opening question, his mother says "No," she has no concerns.

A thorough exam confirms the boy's good health. His heart and lungs are clear; his growth and development right on target. Even his crying as we screen his blood for anemia and lead are signs of a normal child.

This kind of "well-child check" is about keeping children healthy, and it is the cornerstone of pediatrics. The final step is the vaccinations.

To my surprise, the mother objects. She explains that she works as a nanny and was taught by her employers that vaccines cause terrible illnesses, such as autism.

The child's mother, striving to do what's best for him and trusting the family she works for, is convinced that she should decline inoculations we know prevent potentially deadly diseases in order to "prevent autism."

I found the encounter disturbing. A healthy and vibrant child was leaving my clinic vulnerable to illnesses that could lead to his death or that could spread disease to a vulnerable child who could not be vaccinated for medical reasons, such as cancer.

An increasing number of parents are opting out of vaccinating their children. Until now, they have tended to be affluent families. But I fear we are starting to see a new contagion, a terrible idea spreading.

The anti-vaccination movement has its roots in a 1998 study in the journal Lancet suggesting a possible link between autism and the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine, and recommending that the MMR components be given individually. The subsequent hysteria caused British vaccination rates to fall below 80 percent in 2008. That year, there were 1,348 cases of measles and two deaths in England and Wales (compared with just 56 cases in 1998) according to the London Sunday Times.

But the Lancet study, which included more authors (13) than patients (12), had severe ethical and scientific flaws—and 10 of the 13 authors since have retracted their conclusions. Right now, the lead author is facing disciplinary proceedings by Britain's General Medical Council for professional misconduct during the study. One allegation is that he received funding from lawyers representing a group that believed their children were harmed by the MMR vaccine. He also was allegedly seeking a patent for a separated measles vaccine, corresponding nicely to his recommendation to split MMR vaccine's components. Attempts to repeat his findings have failed.

Vaccine critics point out that the number of vaccines has increased dramatically over the past decades. Thankfully, that is true. We also have more antibiotics, newer chemotherapies and different medicines for stroke and heart attack. And 10 years from now, I hope we have vaccines for HIV and more cancers, so people can begin forgetting about their devastation as well.

In countries without pneumococcus and H. influenza type B vaccines (HIB), the World Health Organization attributes more than half of all pneumonia deaths in children under 5 to these infections. Since their introduction in the U.S. in the 1980s and '90s, these vaccines have revolutionized pediatrics.

In 2008, probably because of a vaccine shortage in the U.S., 10 cases of HIB were reported. Three of these children died. This is foreshadowing.

It's no wonder the public is confused, with competing celebrities saying vaccines do or don't cause autism and a lot of media attention on the subject. Vaccines, like every medicine, can have real side effects. Autism, however, is not one of them. Although I believe people who decline vaccines are doing what they believe is best for their children, their fears about vaccines and autism are not only unsubstantiated but have been fully refuted. There is no rational reason to put children in harm's way by declining vaccinations.

We are retreating into illnesses that had nearly vanished, and we are stalling research progress by deferring enormous sums of money to dismantle autism/vaccine theories and establish campaigns to educate families. Wouldn't that money be better spent understanding the true causes of autism and pursuing effective therapies?

We must vaccinate against this misinformation and stop its spread.

Letters to the Editor

Missing '60th Anniversary' video

Editor's Note: Because of the length of this letter, it is being published as a four-part series.

Third of a four-part series

Much earlier—about 15 months ago—I tried to locate/obtain the assumed-to-exist video of the Campfire Chat via an individual once associated with the CNMI Division of Historical Preservation. This person knew or knew of Mr. Wolf, believed he might either have any such video or know of its whereabouts, and thought he could be readily contacted. (I had requested this assistance only after having heard from the Historical Preservation that it knew of no such video.) This attempt proved unsuccessful. I was eventually told by that person that Mr. Wolf had not been reached because he was "off-island" for a while. Though he, of course, eventually returned, I continued to hear nothing from him, and heard nothing from the other party, in this or any other regard; so after a few months I decided to no longer follow that path.

7. It would have been clear, from the start of the 60th anniversary week, that the video documentary which would be filed by the Northern Marianas College for the Story Telling component of the project—specifically, the Campfire Chat event—would differ from any whose content would center on events such as (a) one or both of the USO-style shows at the American Memorial Park amphitheatre, and (b) the June 15 parade in Garapan from Kristo Rai Church to the AMP. It would have been clear because, for one thing, it was already evident that events such as the latter would be filmed by the *local media*. These events *were* in fact then filmed by it. Some of this media-footage was shown on island TV during, I believe, the anniversary week itself. In addition, as I understand it, footage from selected aspects of these media-filmed events was subsequently assembled and produced as a video; and it was this assembled product that became available to the general public, perhaps a year or so after the 60th anniversary. (This may be the video that was also shown on Marianas Cablevision as a one-hour special.) A few years age, I and others purchased our respective copies of this composite item—one I'll call Video A. It has no footage from the Campfire Chat. The final point—No. 8—identifies a second existing video and mentions certain related, relevant unknowns.

8. Nor—Mr. Boothe was told last fall—does what I'll call Video B contain any footage of the Campfire Chat. This apparently much-lesser-known and possibly difficult-to-obtain item, which neither Boothe nor I have personally seen, may or may not be the only assembled footage that Mr. Wolf's company has thus far provided for the Arizona Memorial Museum Association. It may, of course, be the only item his company was ever asked, or perhaps contracted with, to produce for it, whether in connection with the Oral History and Story Telling project only or else regarding 60th anniversary events more broadly. In short, we simply don't know if (a) Video B was the only assembled-and-produced footage, and if (b) any other video had been requested or contracted-for as well—including in particular any that would center on the Campfire Chat or that would at least contain sizeable portions of it. At any rate, we think Video B is probably the video to which—according to the Northern Mariana College media department (Point 4 above)—Mr. Wolf believed the AMMA "held the rights."

In any case, Mr. Boothe, who is a relatively recent member of the AMMA, was told that Video B contained no Campfire Chat footage; he was told this by the AMMA representative mentioned in Points 2 and 4 above, who also told him that he had personally reviewed the video. Based on this individual's brief description of Video B, its content probably differs from that of Video A, but in a manner and degree that Boothe could not determine. Though we don't know with certainty if B was filmed by the college's media department's students, the odds seem to be that it was, and, as indicated above, that the footage was then assembled by Mr. Wolf's company and given by it to the AMMA. This video might include, for instance: scenes of invasion beaches; shots of former Japanese installations and of other campaign-related sites; and excerpts from already mentioned—and/or other—60th anniversary events.

Even if Video B also includes and possibly even highlights one-on-one interviews with World War II and possibly other American veterans filmed at such scenes, sites, and events (and we are not sure that it does), the following is the case: Based on the just-mentioned AMMA review, the video still does not contain the Story Telling portion of the overall Oral History and Story Telling project, that is, the part which is comprised of the Campfire Chat. (See point 1.) (Note, separately: One-on-one interviews may have been partly organized, coordinated, and otherwise supported by such non-college entities as the NMI Council for the Humanities or perhaps the Museum of History and Culture; also, they may have been conducted by persons outside the media department. We do not know what the actual case is, and, therefore, which such entity or entities may have been especially interested in particular aspects of the overall project.)

Mr. Boothe and I, after conversing by phone about our recent several months' lack of substantial progress toward the goal of locating and obtaining a Campfire Chat video—here called Video C—decided there is apparently little realistic chance that we can achieve that goal, even with input from the four NMI individuals with whom we have already interacted in connection with the issue at hand. He and I then reluctantly concluded that the only possibly effective—and hopefully appropriate—next or remaining step we can take is to contact the NMI print media, which is what we have done here. In taking this step, our hope is that whatever forward movement might be needed in order to clarify and successfully resolve the issue can and will somehow emerge based on inputs and other responses, to the NMI print media and/or elsewhere, from readers who are concerned with the subject at hand and who may be in a realistic position to help.

To be continued.

Ted Palmer, Ph.D.
Sacramento, Calif., USA

Will the real governor please stand up!

First off I must make it absolutely clear that the ideas I am going to put forth are mine and mine alone. I was going to start this letter with a few unkind words about the governor's so-called volunteer attorney, Mr. Howard P. Willens. But I think that Mr. Ed Propst pretty well covered that in his letter to the editor on Friday, April 24, so I will spend my time covering the governor's action since he took office.

Let's go back to the last election. Mr. Fitial made several campaign promises. He was going to get rid of the CUC fuel surcharge. He had some investors all lined up to come in as soon as he was elected. He was going to run an open government. He was going to bring better times to us all. I could list a few more but why bother. Let's take a look at what he has done.

First off, the CUC fuel surcharge is not only still with us but is higher than ever. His promised investors never showed up. He was going to run an open government. This one we have to take a long look at. Let's start with federalization lawsuit. Did he hold any public forums about it? No, he decided that he spoke for all of us and went ahead and filed the suit. He promised that he would use no money from the general fund. So why is he hiding the truth about where the money came from and is still coming from? I do not know which residents he talks to. But the residents that I talked to were and still opposes to the lawsuit.

So we have to ask ourselves: Who he is trying to help with the lawsuit? I have to ask myself just what the governor and his friends are trying to pull that they do not want us to know about and who is going to benefit from it. Would it be his friend or the people of the CNMI?

Well, governor it does not look to me that you have done much to help the people of the CNMI. Even if you get your hands on some of the stimulus money, I do not think that you can buy enough votes to get re-elected. You see, the working people of the CNMI is starting to see the right and wrong of what is going on. More and more they are going to get rid of the politicians who do not keep their word and work for the residents of the CNMI. The good ol' boy train is still heading to Banzai Cliff and is picking up speed. It is going to get there on Election Day. I am anxious to see who survives the trip.

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

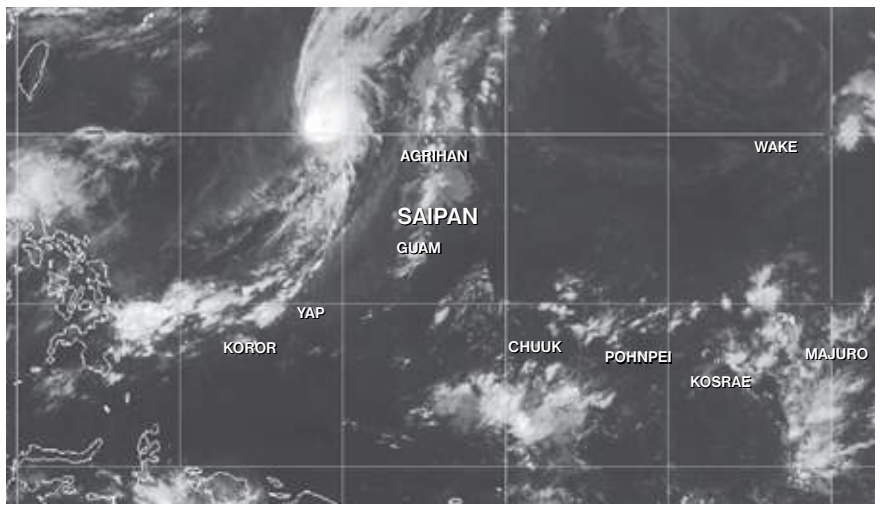
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼55
Beijing	Cloudy	▲93	▼62
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲80	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼73
London	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86	▼60
Manila	Rain	▲86	▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲63	▼50
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼73
New York	Showers	▲70	▼57
Osaka	Showers	▲65	▼58
Paris	Showers	▲70	▼51
Pusan	Cloudy	▲79	▼58
Rome	Sunny	▲73	▼51
Salem	Showers	▲62	▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲82	▼58
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲63	▼58
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲80	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Kujira is centered southwest of Iwo To at 21N139E with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph. Kujira is moving northeastward at 17 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found within 125 miles of the typhoon center. A surface trough extends southward from the typhoon center to 13N135E, then southwestward to beyond 130E at 11N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the periphery of the typhoon and surface trough are occurring in a large area bounded by a line from 25N137E to 25N142E to 20N142E to 11N138E to 8N130E to 11N130E to 13N137E back to 25N137E. This area lies just north of Yap and Koror. Convergent south winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Guam within 75 miles of a line from 12N145E to 18N146E and across the far Northern Mariana Islands within 125 miles of a line from 19N146E to 25N146E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in two areas across eastern Micronesia. The first area is located south of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 5N147E to 3N155E. The second area is situated across Kosrae state and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in an area bounded by a line from 12N164E to 5N171E to 4N179E to EQ169E back to 12N164E. A surface circulation is currently centered near 24N168E. Winds converging to the southeast of the center are triggering scattered showers northeast of Wake Island between 20N and 23N from 168E and 173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:06 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
5:46 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:51 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:25 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:56 PM	4:03 AM
Friday	5:50 PM	4:43 AM
Saturday	6:44 PM	5:26 AM
Sunday	7:38 PM	6:12 AM
Monday	8:32 PM	7:01 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

TOC donates $25,000 to landscape Paseo

The Tournament of Champions has donated $25,000 to assist with landscaping the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

The donation was made through funds raised by its annual golf tournament that benefits the Saipan Beautification Fund.

The project will add approximately 3,200 plants to the Paseo. The project is expected to be completed by May 30, a great way to wrap up "Tourism Month."

ON THE NET
www.tocsaipan.com

Now on its 14th year, the Tournament of Champions has become *the* premier golf tournament in the region. This year's tournament will be played on Aug. 1 and 2 at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort. With 288 players scheduled to play this two-day tournament, TOC looks forward to raising more money for the Saipan Beautification Fund.

Over the past 13 years, TOC has raised in excess of $500,000 for the fund.

"It is great to see the money we raise by sponsors and players being used to enhance such a vital part of our island," says tournament chair Ben Babauta. "The Paseo de Marianas is a high traffic area for both tourists and our local community. We look forward to the completion of this project for all to enjoy."

To learn more about TOC and to download player entry forms for this year's tournament, visit www.tocsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Friends of the Monument sets monthly meetings

The Friends of the Monument will elect seven officers at its first regular monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 20. The group decided at their meeting on April 28 to have a regular monthly meeting.

Ignacio V. Cabrera, the current chairman explained: "During the campaign to create the monument we were meeting almost every other day. We don't need to meet as often anymore and we want people to be able to schedule the meeting into their other activities. We also have a number of areas where we intend to work over the next few years, so we are going to elect directors to lead us. For example, we are going to elect a Federal Relations director who will lead our work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service."

The group will also elect Congressional Affairs, Public Relations, and Outreach & Education directors. Additionally, the organization will elect a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary.

The meeting will take place at Angelo Villagomez's residence at 6pm.

The Friends of the Monument will also distribute booklets detailing the global media coverage the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument received during the first half of January.

When the monument was declared, the story was on the front page of *The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times,* and *USA Today*. It was on the evening news of all three national networks as well as on CNN and FOX News. It played on the radio and was seen on a number of popular magazines and blogs.

According to the group's secretary, Villagomez, "For a few weeks in January the spotlight was shining on our islands and this booklet chronicles all that media exposure in great detail."

The articles in the booklets were compiled and printed by the Pew Environment Group.

A copy can be obtained by e-mailing the Friends of the Monument at marianamonument@gmail.com. For directions to Villagomez' residence, contact him at 285-6462 or 233-6462.

CONTACT INFO
Friends of the Monument:
marianamonument@gmail.com

The Friends of the Monument formed in the Spring of 2008 to express the voice of the local community and consists of a cross-section of indigenous and resident people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who are dedicated to the conservation, preservation and protection of flora, fauna and geological features of the oceans; and the proper management of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. The organization was a recipient of a 2009 EPA Environmental Award for their community outreach work supporting marine protected areas.

More information on the Friends of the Monument and the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument can be found at http://marianamonument.blogspot.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maintaining its commitment to support education, Transpacific International, Inc. and its affiliates, Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc., Foremost Foods Saipan, Subway Investments Corp., and Glimpses of Saipan, Inc. make a $2,500-donation to Eucon International College. Stella T. Fong, left, vice president of the Transpac group of companies, presents the donation to Judy Wei, executive vice president of Eucon International College.

Transpac Group donates $2,500 to Eucon Int'l College

In a continuing effort to support education, Transpacific International Inc. and its affiliated companies, Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia) Inc., Foremost Foods Saipan, Subway Investments Corp., and Glimpses of Saipan Inc., recently donated $2,500 to Eucon International College.

For two years now, the Transpac Group has been in partnership with Eucon International College in promoting excellence in education through the gift of education tax credit.

In accepting the contribution, Judy Wei, executive vice president of Eucon International College, said, "We are extremely thankful to Subway for this donation."

Wei said a portion of the donation will help in building school facilities and purchase of books and equipment.

"I believe this will also encourage our students to always go to Subway and eat more healthful meals as well as drink the healthy options from Coca-Cola and Foremost," Wei added.

She also added that if more businesses would like to support education with their tax donation, "it would be really helpful to improve school programs." She hailed Subway as a good corporate citizen that contributes positively to the improvement of education in the Northern Marianas.

Marcos W. Fong, executive vice president of Transpacific International Inc., said, "Supporting education continues to be a priority for our group of companies. We are pleased to partner with an institution such as Eucon to help build the future for tomorrow's leaders. It is important for us to give back to the community that supports us and there is no better way than through education."

He added, "We continue to support various programs that supplement the hard work our educators put into the students." ***(PR)***

NMC IT staff completes FCC license test prep training

Staff members of the Northern Marianas College's Information Technology Department recently completed test preparation training for the Federal Communication Commission license test.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent United States government agency responsible for regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable.

"The FCC license testing preparation training is a very important component for the IT personnel because it will enable them to maintain and operate the antenna sites of NMC," said IT Director Adrian Atalig.

"With the FCC license, the IT staff will be able to inspect, test the radio equipments and other devices that are being used for the point-to-point wireless system," Atalig added.

Atalig also reported that the College is currently working on connecting the three NMC campus sites, as well as expanding administrative capacities and enhancing technology services for the campus community. The IT department is continuing its efforts to upgrade and implement various projects that make the College's network faster, more stable, and increasingly more efficient.

The training sessions were facilitated by L & K Communications owner and communications expert, John Limtiaco, and took place in the IT conference room on the NMC campus from April 24-27, 2009. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff members of the Northern Marianas College's Information Technology department pose for a group photo after completing training for the Federal Communications Commission license test. John Limtiaco, seated center, of L&K Communications, facilitated the training on April 24-27 at the NMC campus.

Best of Worst Dog Show

The Beautify CNMI Animal Welfare Committee and PAWS have set a date for the third annual Best of Worst Dog Show. *PAWS WARS Episode 3: Revenge of the Boonie* is set to take place on June 13. This year's dog show will have a Star Wars theme in celebration of veteran dog show host George Hasselback's 40th birthday.

Like years past, this year's contestants will compete for prizes in six categories. Popular categories "Booniest," "Fattest," and "Most Disobedient" are returning for this year's competition, along with new categories, "Most Talented" and "Best Star Wars Character" to go along with the theme of this year's show. A "Best in Show" award will also be given out.

CONTACT INFO
Angelo Villagomez
- angelovillagomez@gmail.com
- 285-6462

Dogs will be able to participate in multiple categories and there will be no cost to compete, although a donation to support PAWS is always encouraged.

The event is still in the planning stages and both Beautify CNMI and PAWS are looking for sponsors for Micronesia's only annual dog show. The organizers are looking for in-kind donations of raffle items, as well as cash to pay for tents, tables, and awards.

People interested in volunteering to help with PAWS WARS are encouraged to attend a meeting next Friday, May 15 at 12pm at Oleai Bar & Grille. Contact Angelo Villagomez at angelovillagomez@gmail.com or 285-6462 for more information. ***(PR)***

Island Snapshots

PARTY UNITY

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Republican Party officials and members pose with the tandems of Juan N. Babauta-Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Heinz Hofscheneider-Arnold Palacios after a meeting on May 5 at the Hafadai Beach Hotel. The two camps of Babauta and Hofschneider will be facing off in a primary election this June to decide on the party's standard bearer in the November general elections. In Tuesday's meeting, the two camps signed an understanding that whoever wins the primary election will get the support of the losing team. The party says the agreement is intended to solidify the GOP's chances for victory in November.

CALL FOR SUPPORT

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ

CNMI Nursing Association vice president Bertha P. Camacho stresses a point as she solicits support for the 31st Conference of the American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council before members of the Rotary Club of Saipan Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tradesman Anthony A. Reyes, left, of Marianas Visitors Authority-Tinian is congratulated by MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, right, and MVA board member Deborah Fleming on his selection as MVA Employee of the Quarter. Reyes was instrumental in preparing for the February Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. He was commended by his supervisor for both his hard work and skill, as well his honesty, respect for fellow workers, and appreciation for teamwork. Reyes has been with MVA for over nine years.

DANCE CREW FACE-OFF

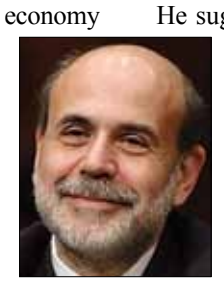
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas College's Charter Day Committee held its auditions for the Charter Day Dance Crew Competition on Tuesday. The three dance crews who will be competing at the festivities on Friday, May 8, include Kagman High School's Spectrum dance crew, Final Xtreme and Saipan Southern High School's Hypnotic dance crew.

Business

Bernanke more optimistic, sees growth in 2009

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gave his most optimistic prediction yet Tuesday about the end of the recession, saying he expects the economy to start growing again this year—although the comeback could be weak and more jobs will disappear even after a recovery takes hold.


Bernanke

The Fed chief told Congress' Joint Economic Committee that he saw hopeful signs, including firmer home sales, a revival in consumer spending and some improvement in lending conditions for banks, businesses and individual borrowers.

"We continue to expect economic activity to bottom out, then to turn up later this year," Bernanke said.

Previously, Bernanke has suggested the recession could end this year if the government managed to stabilize the financial markets. This time, he said not only that he expects an end to the recession this year end but also a return to growth.

For that to happen, he said, the banking system must continue to stabilize.

"A relapse in financial conditions would be a significant drag on economic activity and could cause the incipient recovery to stall," Bernanke said.

Barring such a setback, Bernanke suggested the worst of the recession—for lost economic activity—has passed. Economists say the recession started in December 2007, then hit with force in the fall of last year when the financial crisis intensified.

He suggested that even in a recovery, economic activity would probably still be below normal, which some economists say is around a 2.5 percent growth, and "only gradually gain momentum."

More than 5 million jobs have vanished in the recession, and the Fed chief predicted "further sizable job losses" in the coming months. The unemployment rate stood at 8.5 percent in March, a quarter-century high.

By year's end, some economists believe the jobless rate could hit 10 percent, but the Fed stops short of that figure. Bernanke said the unemployment rate would probably climb somewhere in the 9 percent range.

Among signs cited by Bernanke that the recession may be loosening its grip: The housing market has shown some signs of bottoming, and consumer spending, which collapsed in the second half of last year, came back to life in the first quarter.

While tax cuts from the economic stimulus plan and a sense that the economy is no longer in free fall may help people feel freer to spend, rising unemployment and shattered nest eggs may give them second thoughts.

Judge OKs Chrysler's steps toward sale to Fiat

NEW YORK (AP)—The judge overseeing Chrysler LLC's Chapter 11 proceedings has ruled that the automaker can start taking steps toward selling the vast majority of its assets to Italy's Fiat Group SpA. The judge also said lawyers for a dissident group of lenders have until noon Wednesday to file a list of members with the court, ruling that their identities do not need to be sealed despite reported death threats.

After more than seven hours of testimony and legal arguments, Judge Arthur Gonzales approved the bidding procedures for the proposed sale late Tuesday, saying they represented a "clear and orderly process."

Bids for all or part of Chrysler's assets must be submitted by May 20, and a determination of the lead bid made by May 26. A final sale hearing would be held on May 27 and the sale could close in as little as 30 days after that.

If a sale to Fiat fails to go through, Chrysler will pay the automaker a breakup fee of $35 million.

Lawyers on Tuesday packed the hot and stuffy New York City courtroom for a third-straight business day of testimony in the case, which the automaker hopes will end in a swift exit from court oversight. Attorneys for Auburn Hills, Mich.-based Chrysler LLC argued that the automaker had essentially been up for sale for most of the last two years and that a speedy sale was needed in order to preserve the value of the company's assets.

In addition, it's indisputable that the automaker cannot survive without government financing that would not be provided without some kind of partnership with another automaker, Chrysler attorney Corinne Ball said.

"It's uncontroverted that time is not our friend here," Ball told the court. "The preservation of value demands that we move forward."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Public scrutiny blunted bank stress tests

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said in February that putting the nation's biggest banks through "stress tests" was vital to getting the financial system back on solid ground. But with the results set to be released Thursday, critics say regulators seem so intent on avoiding statements that might undermine confidence in the banks that they risk eroding trust in the stress tests themselves. Regulators say none of the 19 banks will be allowed to fold. That rules out any official statements that might scare investors. As a result, critics say the results won't likely provide the specific analysis and discipline banks need to lend money and nourish an eventual economic rebound. The public spotlight on the tests "negates the whole point" of stress testing, because regulators know tough action could imperil the banks, said Jaidev Iyer, a former risk management chief at Citigroup Inc. who now works at a nonprofit involved in bank risk analysis.

GM plans 1-for-100 reverse stock split

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. notified shareholders Tuesday it is planning a reverse stock split that would give them one share of new stock for every 100 shares they currently own. The automaker said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that the deal would be part of an agreement with the Treasury Department in which the government would assume at least half of GM's debt in exchange for company shares. GM will send the information to shareholders currently holding a total of 610.5 million outstanding shares. GM spokeswoman Julie Gibson said the company is merely notifying shareholders of what it may do if it reaches deals to swap debt for stock with the Treasury Department and bondholders. The company, she said, is not making an offer to shareholders.

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Nation

Source: No charges likely over interrogation memos

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bush administration lawyers who approved harsh interrogation techniques of terror suspects should not face criminal charges, Justice Department investigators say in a draft report that recommends two of the three attorneys face possible professional sanctions.

The recommendations come after an Obama administration decision last month to make public legal memos authorizing the use of harsh interrogation methods but not to prosecute CIA interrogators who followed advice outlined in the memos.

That decision angered conservatives who accused President Barack Obama of selling out the CIA for releasing the memos, and liberals who thought he was being too forgiving of practices they—and Obama—call torture. The president's rhetoric, if not actual policy, shifted on the matter as the political fallout intensified.

Officials conducting the internal Justice Department inquiry into the lawyers who wrote those memos have recommended referring two of the three lawyers—John Yoo and Jay Bybee—to state bar associations for possible disciplinary action, according to a person familiar with the inquiry. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity, was not authorized to discuss the inquiry.

The person noted that the investigative report was still in draft form and subject to revisions. Attorney General Eric Holder also may make his own determination about what steps to take once the report has been finalized.

Texas confirms first death of US resident with flu

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Texas health officials on Tuesday announced the first death of a U.S. resident with swine flu, and said she was a 33-year-old school teacher who had recently given birth to a healthy baby.

The woman died early Tuesday and had been hospitalized since April 19, said Leonel Lopez, Cameron County epidemiologist.

Health officials stopped short of saying that swine flu caused the woman's death. State health department spokeswoman Carrie Williams said the woman had "chronic underlying health conditions" but wouldn't give any more details.

Lopez said the flu exacerbated the woman's condition. "The swine flu is very benign by itself," Lopez said. But "by the time she came to see us it was already too late."

Tuesday evening, cars filled the driveway and lined the quiet street in front of Judy Trunnell's home in a quiet, new Harlingen subdivision.

NEW FACE AP

This is a photo of Connie Culp, after an injury to her face, left, and then as she appears today. Culp underwent the first face transplant surgery in the United States at the Cleveland Clinic in December 2008. Culp spoke to the media at a news conference at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, on Tuesday, May 5, 2009. The 46-year-old mother of two lost most of the midsection of her face to a gunshot in 2004.

ACROSS THE NATION

NBA great Dave Bing wins race for Detroit mayor

DETROIT (AP—Basketball legend Dave Bing was elected Tuesday as Detroit's mayor through the end of the year, sweeping the incumbent from office in the city with myriad problems. "The real work starts now," Bing said to loud cheers during his victory speech. "What we will bring ... is efficiency, transparency, honesty and integrity back to the mayor's office," he said. With 100 percent of precincts reporting, Bing had 52.3 percent of the vote, or 49,054 votes, to 47.7 percent, or 44,770 votes, for Cockrel. Both are Democrats. Bing, 65, will be mayor through 2009, serving the balance of the term that belonged to Democrat Kwame Kilpatrick, who resigned in September and went to jail after admitting he lied during a civil trial to cover up an affair with his chief of staff. Bing must run again in the regular Aug. 4 nonpartisan primary and win the Nov. 3 general election to hold the mayor's seat for a full four years.

No ransom demand, no motive in Calif. abduction

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—Investigators trying to find a 3-year-old kidnap victim, snatched from his home by armed robbers who threatened to kill him, have received dozens of tips but no solid leads, officials said Tuesday. There was no ransom demand 48 hours after the abduction, and San Bernardino County sheriff's Lt. Rick Ells said detectives were worried that news vans outside the home could be deterring the kidnappers from making contact. "Every minute, every second that passes, is critical," Sgt. Doug Hubbard said at a news conference. "But we are remaining positive and investigating it as if we just went on scene." Two gunmen burst through the family's front door Sunday and tied up 3-year-old Briant Rodriguez, four of his siblings and their mother, Maria Rosalina Millan, then ransacked the house, stealing money and other property, the Sheriff's Department said.

Calif. men accused of smuggling songbirds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man was charged Tuesday with smuggling songbirds into the United States by hiding more than a dozen of them in an elaborate, custom-tailored pair of leggings during a flight from Vietnam to Los Angeles. Sony Dong, 46, was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport in March after an inspector spotted bird feathers and droppings on his socks and tail feathers peeking out from under his pants, prosecutors said. "He had fashioned these special cloth devices to hold the birds," said U.S. attorney spokesman Thom Mrozek. "They were secured by cloth wrappings and attached to his calves with buttons." Authorities later linked Dong's scheme to Duc Le, who was arrested after investigators searched his Orange County home and found 51 songbirds in an outdoor aviary. Both are charged with conspiracy in an eight-count federal indictment.

World

Mexico emerges from swine flu isolation

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico emerged from its swine flu isolation Tuesday as thousands of newspaper vendors, salesmen hawking trinkets and even panhandlers dropped their protective masks and joined the familiar din of traffic horns and blaring music on the streets of the capital.

There were still signs, however, of the virus that set off world health alarms. A Texas woman who lived near a popular border crossing was confirmed as the second outside Mexico and the first U.S. resident to die after contracting the virus. Mexico's Health Department later announced three more confirmed deaths, raising the country's total to 29.

Across Mexico, people were eagerly anticipating this week's reopening of businesses, restaurants, schools and parks, after a claustrophobic five-day furlough.

"We have a lot of confidence nothing is going to happen," said Irineo Moreno Gonzales, 54, a security guard who Tuesday limited takeout customers to four at a time at a usually crowded downtown Starbucks. "Mexicans have the same spirit we've always had. We're ready to move forward."

The Texas woman, the second confirmed person to die with swine flu in the U.S., lived not far from the Mexico border and had chronic medical conditions, as did the Mexico City toddler who died of swine flu last week during a visit to Houston, Texas, health officials said.

The 33-year-old woman was pregnant and delivered a healthy baby while hospitalized, said Leonel Lopez, Cameron County epidemiologist. She was a teacher in the Mercedes Independent School District, which announced it would close its schools until May 11.

Mexico's government imposed the shutdown to curb the flu's spread, especially in this metropolis of 20 million where the outbreak sickened the most people. Capital residents overwhelmingly complied, and officials cautiously hailed the drastic experiment as a success.

UK bars 22 alleged extremists, including show host

LONDON (AP)—Britain on Tuesday published its first list of people barred from entering the country for allegedly fostering extremism or hatred, including Muslim extremists, a right-wing American radio host, an Israeli settler and jailed Russian gang members.

The U.K.'s law and order chief, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, said she decided to publish the names of 16 of 22 people who have been banned by the government since October so others could better understand what sort of behavior Britain was not prepared to tolerate.

She cited unidentified "public interest" reasons for not disclosing the other six names.

"I think it's important that people understand the sorts of values and sorts of standards that we have here, the fact that it's a privilege to come and the sort of things that mean you won't be welcome in this country," Smith told GMTV.

But some of the people on the list criticized it, and one analyst said it contains a wide variety of people to avoid giving Britain's Muslims the impression that it singles them out.

Popular American talk-radio host, Michael Savage, who broadcasts from San Francisco and has called the Muslim holy book, the Quran, a "book of hate," is on the list. Savage also has enraged parents of children with autism by saying in most cases it's "a brat who hasn't been told to cut the act out."

Savage told the conservative Web site WorldNetDaily.com that he was considering legal action against Smith for defamation.

"She's linking me with mass murderers who are in prison for killing Jewish children on buses? For my speech? The country where the Magna Carta was created?" the site quoted him as saying Tuesday.

A phone call to his home station, KNEW in San Francisco, wasn't immediately returned.

The list includes Americans Stephen "Don" Black, founder of a Florida-based white supremacist Web site, and anti-gay preacher Fred Phelps Sr., who leads a church in Topeka, Kansas.

Black was criticized as the "Godfather of hate on the Internet" in a 2000 HBO documentary. The British government previously acknowledged that Phelps was banned.

WORLD BRIEFS

Red Cross: Dozens of Afghans dead in US bombing

KABUL (AP)—The international Red Cross says its officials have seen dozens of bodies in each of two villages in western Afghanistan following a U.S. bombing run that villagers say hit civilians. Jessica Barry, a spokeswoman in Afghanistan for the International Committee of the Red Cross, says its team traveled to Bala Baluk district of Farah province, where bombs fell late Monday. Barry says the team saw "dozens of bodies in each of the two locations," including women and children. President Hamid Karzai—who is in Washington—has ordered an investigation and says he will raise the issue with President Barack Obama.

Fighting erupts in Pakistan as peace deal crumbles

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP)—Taliban militants and security forces battled for control of a northwestern Pakistani town Wednesday as residents hunkered down in their homes ahead of an expected major offensive. Thousands of men, women and children have fled Mingora and surrounding districts, the first wave of a refugee exodus the government fears could reach 500,000. The collapse of a 3-month-old truce in the Swat Valley with the Taliban means Pakistan will have to evict the insurgents by force, testing the ability of its stretched military and the resolve of civilian leaders who until recently were insisting the insurgents could be partners in peace. An Associated Press reporter in Mingora said gun and mortar fire started Tuesday and continued through the night into Wednesday morning.

Police: 11 dead in Baghdad bombing

BAGHDAD (AP)—A car bomb exploded Wednesday at the entrance to a fruit and vegetable market in south Baghdad, killing 11 people and wounding about 30, police and hospital officials said. The blast, which occurred about 7 a.m. at the Rasheed market in the city's southern Dora area, follows a sharp rise in attacks in Iraq last month, raising concern that militants have regrouped after suffering sharp setbacks in fighting over the last two years. Most of the recent bombings have taken place in Shiite areas, suggesting Sunni militants such as al-Qaida in Iraq are responsible. The Rasheed market is in a mainly Sunni area but the farmers who bring their crops there are predominantly Shiites. Kamil Lahmoud, a Shiite farmer from Mahmoudiya, said he had just sold his produce and was inside an office collecting his money when the blast happened.

Environment

AQUACULTURE SCIENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE

Hybrid systems that could work in CNMI

By VALRICK WELCH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Aquaculture Science and Self-Reliance project is researching ways to use hybrid systems to improve self-reliance. Most people are familiar with the Toyota hybrid car that uses a combination gas engine with an electric motor. Saipan Southern High School is using a hybrid system of solar panels and a wind turbine. These systems both have advantages over using a single system; for example the solar panel/wind turbine can produce power when there is no sunlight as well as when there is no wind.

The Aquaculture Science project managers believe the CNMI is an ideal location to consider a number of other hybrid systems that have the potential to develop self-reliance. Currently Pedro Arriola is using a modified system to provide oxygen to his fish tank while he is waiting for funding for solar panels. To save electricity he uses a pump that is too small to provide enough oxygen by itself, but by supplementing the filter return water with falling water, and by adding plants his tanks have adequate oxygen. Pedro also uses a hybrid system for his protein needs by using his home aquaculture system along with his fishing boat.

Saipan has two main resources that can be tapped for self-reliance: wind and sun. The amount of sun energy we receive can be seen in the suntans, faded street signs, and faded cars, as well as the heat that is soaked up in our cement houses. The wind is not as strong as in many other areas, but it is more consistent than landlocked places. That is because the ocean stores solar energy during the day and releases it at night. Wind is caused by the uneven heating of the Earth. The sun warms the air, causing it to rise, producing a low pressure area. The low pressure area is then filled with cooler air—a movement called wind.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pedro Arriola uses a combination of air pump, falling water, and plants to provide oxygen to his tank.

In landlocked areas the wind is strong in the morning and in the evening, but often nonexistent throughout the day. This is because when the sunlight hits the land it warms quickly and therefore air rises quickly causing the cooler air to move in at a fast rate. In the evening when the sun goes down the land cools quickly, causing the heavier air to rapidly flow to lower pressure areas.

On Saipan, the ocean absorbs the heat from the sun in the morning resulting in a gradual increase in temperature so the wind is slower, but is continuous as the water heats. In the evening after the sun goes down, heat is released from the water resulting in slower cooling and so the air cools slower and the wind is slower, but more consistent.

The following are potential hybrid uses of our sun and wind resources:

- Fishing boats that use sails and gas powered engines.
- Experiment with kite board-type sails for shipping. In particular, smaller shipping vessels for sending goods to Tinian (where it costs as much to send a container from Saipan as it does to bring that container to Saipan from the states).
- Make a rain cover using transparent material for drying clothes. The heat from the sun and air from the wind will quickly pull out most of the moisture. For complete drying, the clothes could be put in a gas dryer.
- A fixed rail transportation system with computer operated airfoils and solar panels.
- Solar ovens with LP gas assist.

Besides the power consumption benefits of using hybrid systems, the quality of life will improve as families work together and enjoy each others company as they make their different ideas and systems work. As Pedro Arriola said before his Saturday fishing trip. "This is my time to talk with my son. If we catch any fish, that is just an added benefit."

Finding space for all in our crowded seas

By JULIET EILPERIN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

The ocean is getting crowded: Fishermen are competing with offshore wind projects, oil rigs along with sand miners, recreational boaters, liquefied gas tankers and fish farmers. So a growing number of groups—including policymakers, academics, activists and industry officials—now say it's time to divvy up space in the sea.

"We've got competition for space in the ocean, just like we have competition for space on land," said Andrew Rosenberg, a natural resources and environment professor at the University of New Hampshire who has advised Massachusetts on the issue. "How are you going to manage it? Is it the people with the most power win? Is it whoever got there first? Is it a free-for-all?"

To resolve these conflicts, a handful of states—including Massachusetts, California and Rhode Island—have begun essentially zoning the ocean, drawing up rules and procedures to determine which activities can take place and where. The federal government is considering adopting a similar approach, though any coherent effort would involve sorting out the role of 20 agencies that administer roughly 140 ocean-related laws.

"It's really an idea whose time has come, and it's one of my top priorities," said Jane Lubchenco, who chairs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "By focusing on different sectors, nobody is paying attention to the whole—in particular, the health of the system."

But conducting what experts call "marine spatial planning" presents scientific and political challenges, since so little of the ocean has been mapped in detail, and so many interest groups want to use it. The federal government has mapped only 20 percent of the "exclusive economic zone" that stretches from the U.S. coast out 200 nautical miles, and that's just its geophysical bottom, not the habitats and species that exist at varying levels.

Charlie Wahle, a senior scientist in NOAA's National Marine Protected Area Center, said the agency is convening experts in California to chart how groups including kayakers, the Coast Guard and fishermen use waters off the state's coast. "People have been surprisingly willing to engage and share their information and knowledge of the way it really is, as opposed to how it may look on maps," he said. "We're on the right path, but it's not a simple thing."

Marine ecologist Larry Crowder, one of several scientists at Duke University who have compiled data for such plans, said the approach makes sense because ocean resources are not "equally distributed, whether it's oil and gas, or fish, or corals." But he added that the sea has so many so many overlapping activities , and "when you begin putting these maps together, as we've done, it quickly becomes a train wreck."

The states pioneering this approach have charted different paths. California is establishing marine protected areas along its 1,100-mile coastline under its 1999 Marine Life Protection Act, dividing it into five regions and brokering agreements with interest groups. Massachusetts, which enacted its Ocean Act only last year, is to finalize a comprehensive ocean management plan by Jan. 1 that exempts fisheries but covers all other major activities.

Ian Bowles, Massachusetts secretary of energy and environmental affairs, said the state is working to determine "what are the areas of particular ecological value that we should be protecting from other uses" and what parts of the ocean can accommodate such diverse concerns as liquefied natural gas offloading terminals, wind projects and sand mining for restoring eroding beaches.

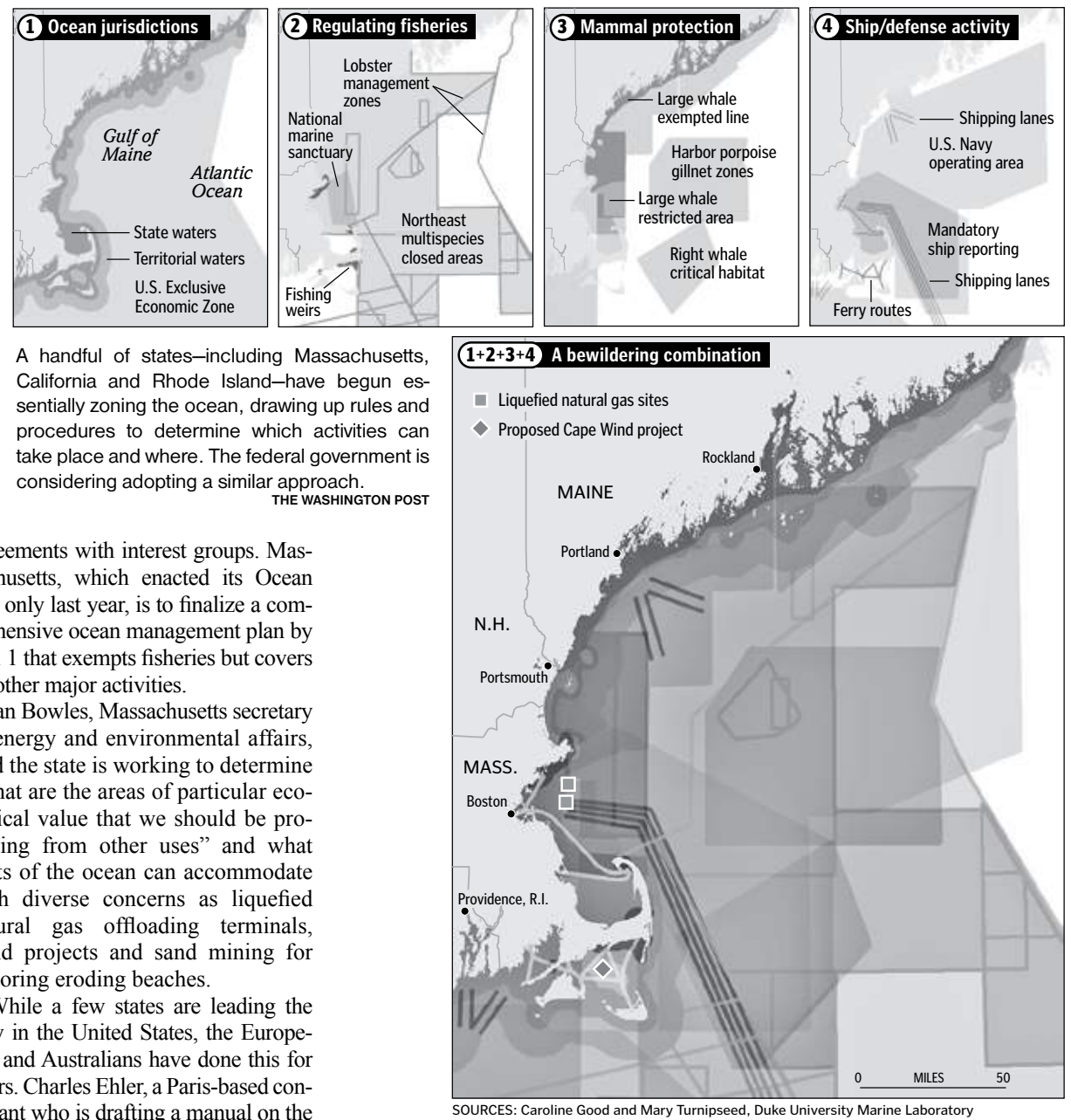
While a few states are leading the way in the United States, the Europeans and Australians have done this for years. Charles Ehler, a Paris-based consultant who is drafting a manual on the subject for the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, said the demand for offshore wind farms and other activities has spurred countries such as Belgium, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands to establish specific marine boundaries.

"There's a much greater intensity of demand for offshore space in Europe than in most of the United States," said Ehler, noting Belgium's demand exceeds its available space by 200 to 300 percent.

Even though they have a head start, policymakers overseas are struggling with many of the same questions Americans are contemplating, including how to reconcile new and traditional ocean uses, and how will climate change affect where marine species live.

Uncoordinated Oversight

More than 20 federal agencies enforce dozens of laws regulating marine activities in the Gulf of Maine. Policy reformers are currently focused on comprehensive ocean zoning.



A handful of states—including Massachusetts, California and Rhode Island—have begun essentially zoning the ocean, drawing up rules and procedures to determine which activities can take place and where. The federal government is considering adopting a similar approach.

THE WASHINGTON POST

SOURCES: Caroline Good and Mary Turnipseed, Duke University Marine Laboratory

BY PATTERSON CLARK — THE WASHINGTON POST

Life & Style

A new captain sits in Kirk's chair

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Wearing a trucker hat, battered blue jeans and an air of breezy confidence, Chris Pine walked through the Paramount Pictures studio lot like he owned the place but felt no particular need to show anyone the deed in his pocket.

It's precisely that mix of fighter-pilot cockiness and surfer-dude Zen that you would expect from an actor who, as the leading man in "Star Trek," has taken on the biggest challenge of any popcorn-movie star this summer: How to play James T. Kirk without imitating the role's originator, William Shatner?

"That's it right there; that's the challenge," Pine said of the film, which opens Friday. "If I can do that, then we're good."

The Los Angeles native has apparently done just that, at least according to early reviews and a positive industry buzz that frames "Star Trek" as this year's "Iron Man," a sleek summer movie with intense action, wit and surprising buoyancy considering all the heavy equipment taking flight.

The film begins on the day Kirk is born—the same day his father dies 12 minutes into his first command as a starship captain.

It follows Kirk through his daredevil youth and his Starfleet Academy career as a rakish Romeo with a need for speed and no love of regulations. Then it's off into space, where he and the rest of the crew must tangle with an angry Romulan named Nero.

Paramount, expecting big things, has already announced a sequel for 2011. Still, there are no sure bets in Hollywood, and while the crew of the USS Enterprise may live in the future, they may seem like ancient history to young moviegoers.

This "Star Trek," though, is not your grandfather's starship. Director J.J. Abrams ("Mission: Impossible III" and television's "Lost") grew up as a "Star Wars" fan and decided that Gene Roddenberry's venerable space-frontier epic could use a bit of the George Lucas mojo—yes, that sound you hear is Trekkers gagging on their Romulan ale.

This new version has intense dogfights, a sprinkling of exotic aliens, major dollops of humor and even a bit of an icy tribute to "The Empire Strikes Back."

Zachary Quinto of NBC's "Heroes" is in as Spock and, thanks to some time travel, Leonard Nimoy appears as the Vulcan in his advanced years. The cast includes Simon Pegg, Eric Bana, Winona Ryder and, startlingly, a cameo by Tyler Perry.

But "Trek" will fly or fail based on the man in the captain's seat: Pine.

"He is our star," Abrams said, "and it was an intense challenge to take on a role that was so defined for so long by Shatner."

Pine, 28, is the son of Robert Pine, an actor with 4 1/2 decades of film and television work whom many people might remember as Sgt. Joseph Getraer on "CHiPs."

"Whenever you're on set with people that have put in the years, pick their brains—that's our apprenticeship, that's how the trade gets passed down, the stories, the lessons," Pine said. "I think with my family and my background, I have a sense of the history of the business, what has come before. ... Going with my dad to his auditions, I would listen to the actors talk, and it was almost like workers in a steel town on lunch break talking about the line or union issues."

Pine's biggest impact was in Joe Carnahan's 2006 Las Vegas underworld tale "Smokin' Aces." Now comes the career-shaping role in "Star Trek," and his name has been floated to step into another major franchise, perhaps "The A-Team" remake or wearing the emerald power ring in the planned "Green Lantern" film.

With "Trek," Pine says he wasn't a loyal fan growing up but that he has marveled at its sense of "optimism and unity" and, at the risk of sounding corny, he said that, like the original series in the 1960s, this revival finds itself reaching for hope amid real-life global crisis.

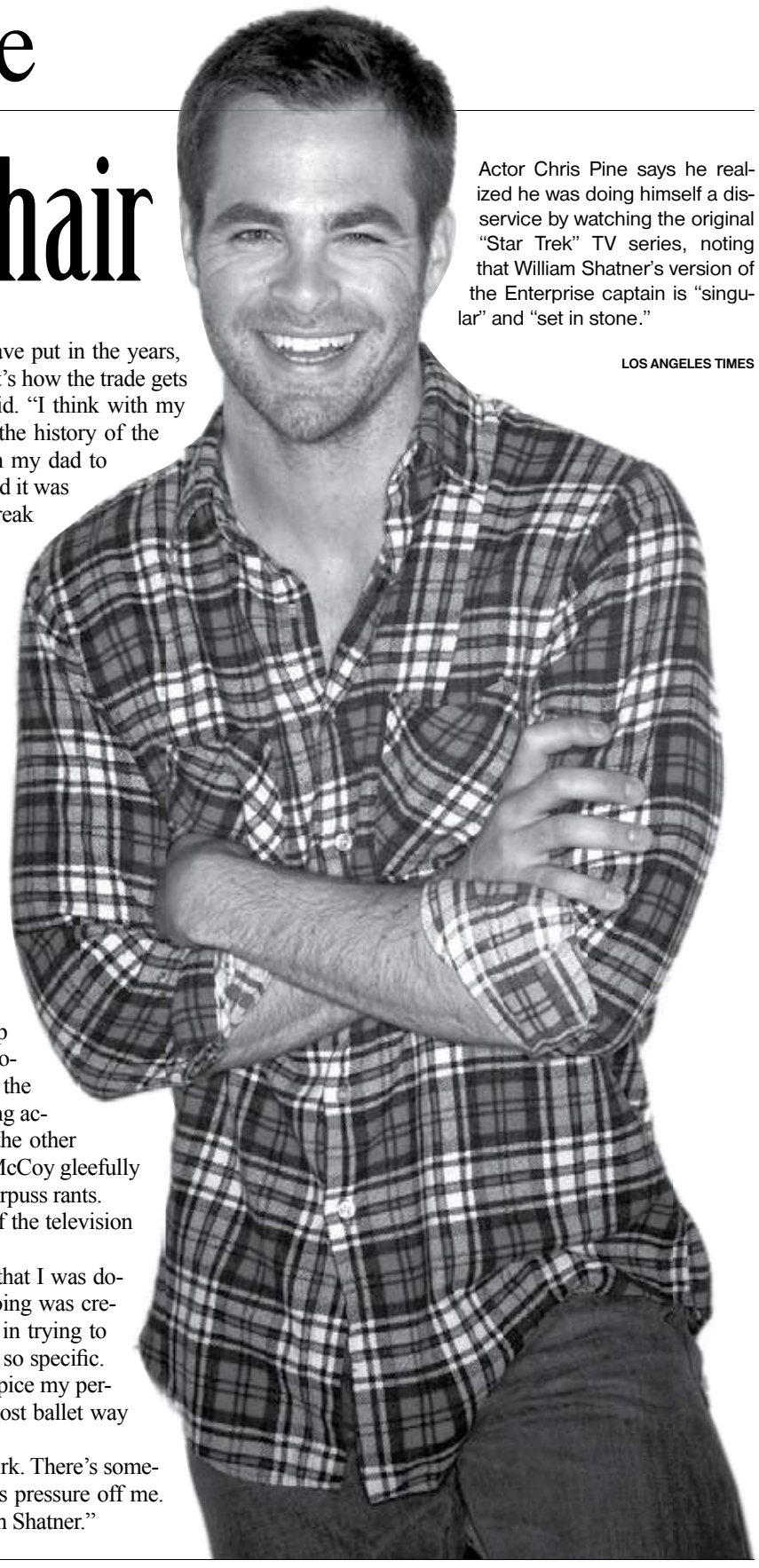
"There's a message in this almost utopian possibility and this team of people who must work together to overcome tremendous challenges."

In the film, Pine has a loose-limbed swagger that at times recalls the way Shatner would slump with style in the captain's chair. There are also moments in which Pine stretches or pops a word in the staccato manner of his predecessor, but the young actor is doing much less mimicry than some of the other cast members, such as Karl Urban, who as Dr. McCoy gleefully imitates the late DeForest Kelley's Southern sourpuss rants.

In his search for Kirk, Pine got a boxed set of the television series and binged.

"I realized pretty quick into that exploration that I was doing myself a disservice," he said. "All I was doing was creating this monolithic task. There was no sense in trying to re-create what Shatner had done because it was so specific. He was unique, singular; it was his take. I did spice my performance with some of his straight-spined, almost ballet way of moving."

He adds: "Shatner will forever be James T. Kirk. There's something set in stone about that. That actually takes pressure off me. I'm going my own way. My name is not William Shatner."



Actor Chris Pine says he realized he was doing himself a disservice by watching the original "Star Trek" TV series, noting that William Shatner's version of the Enterprise captain is "singular" and "set in stone."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Popular actor, comedian, chef Dom DeLuise dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With an ever-present smile that gave way to ready laughter, Dom DeLuise possessed a jovial warmth that charmed not only film and TV audiences, but the actors and directors with whom he worked for decades. Though lighthearted onscreen, the prolific actor was deeply passionate about food, forging a second career as a popular chef and cookbook author.

The affable and portly star, described as a natural comedian who kept the laughs rolling even when the cameras weren't, died Monday at age 75.

"You can't teach someone to be funny," his agent, Robert Malcolm, said Tuesday. "He was born funny, and he knew how to charm you and he knew how to make you feel comfortable. He loved people."

DeLuise was surrounded by his wife and three sons when died "peacefully" Monday evening at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, Calif., Malcolm said.

The family did not release the cause of death, saying only in a statement on the actor-comedian's official Web site Tuesday: "It's easy to mourn to his death but easier to remember a time when he made you laugh."

AP

In this 1987 file photo, actor and comedian Dom DeLuise is shown.

DeLuise appeared in scores of movies and TV shows, in Broadway plays and voicing characters for numerous cartoons. Writer-director-actor Mel Brooks particularly admired DeLuise's talent for offbeat comedy and cast him in several films, including "The Twelve Chairs," "Blazing Saddles," "Silent Movie," "History of the World Part I" and "Robin Hood: Men in Tights." DeLuise was also the voice of Pizza the Hutt in Brooks' "Star Wars" parody, "Spaceballs."

"Dom DeLuise was a big man in every way," Brooks said in a statement Tuesday. "He was big in size and created big laughter and joy. He will be missed in a very big way."

The actor also frequently appeared opposite his friend Burt Reynolds in films such as "The End," "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," "Smokey and the Bandit II," "The Cannonball Run" and "Cannonball Run II." Reynolds fondly recalled DeLuise in a statement issued by his publicist.

"I was thinking about this the other day," Reynolds said. "As you get older and start to lose people you love, you think about it more and I was dreading this moment. Dom always made you feel better when he was around and there will never be another like him. I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone. I will miss him very much."

Another actor-friend, Dean Martin, admired his comic abilities so much that he cast DeLuise as a regular on his 1960s comedy-variety show. In 1973, he starred in a situation comedy, "Lotsa Luck," but it proved to be short-lived.

"To know Dom was to love him and I knew him very well. Not only was he talented and extremely funny, but he was a very special human being," said actress Carol Burnett, who starred with DeLuise on TV show "The Entertainers" in the '60s. DeLuise also appeared on "The Carol Burnett Show" in the '70s.

Other TV credits included appearances on such shows as "The Munsters," "The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.," "Burke's Law," "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" and "Diagnosis Murder." On Broadway, DeLuise appeared in Neil Simon's "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and other plays.

In part because of his passion for food, the actor battled obesity, reaching as much as 325 pounds and for years resisting family members and doctors who tried to put him on various diets. He finally agreed in 1993 when his doctor refused to perform hip replacement surgery until he lost 100 pounds (he lost enough weight for the surgery, though gained some of it back).

On the positive side, his love of food resulted in two successful cookbooks, 1988's "Eat This—It Will Make You Feel Better!" and 1997's "Eat This Too! It'll Also Make You Feel Good."

DeLuise also wrote seven books for young children. "Charlie the Caterpillar" published in 1993, is an original tale of an ugly-but-loveable caterpillar whose appearance prevented him from making friends. DeLuise also gave popular children's stories, such as "Hansel and Gretel" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," his own comedic twist.

Besides his wife and three sons, DeLuise is survived by his sister, Anne, and grandchildren Riley, Dylan, and Jake. Memorial services will be private, the family said, and has asked that donations be made to DeLuise's favorite charities: The Elixir Fund, which supports cancer patients and their families; parrot rescue agency The Lily Sanctuary; The Hydrocephalus Foundation, which supports victims of the incurable brain condition; and the Pearl S. Buck Foundation.

'American Idol' finalists channel inner rock stars

NEW YORK (AP)—The "American Idol" finalists channeled their inner rock stars Tuesday. The result? Some shone. Some stumbled.

The remaining four singers performed duets along with their solos on the rock-themed show.

The pairing of Adam Lambert and Allison Iraheta yielded glowing reviews by the judges' panel.

"In the battle of the duets, you win the show tonight," Simon Cowell declared after the duo's electric rendition of the Foghat classic "Slow Ride."

Cowell said Lambert might have given his 17-year-old duet partner a chance to stay in the competition. The 27-year-old theater actor hugged Iraheta, saying: "This is like my little sister, kinda."

Danny Gokey and Kris Allen performed "Renegade" by Styx. Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi enjoyed their harmonizing; Cowell, judging them individually, said Gokey bested Allen, who seemed overshadowed by the song.

Cowell saved harsher jabs for Allen's solo performance. The Arkansas heartthrob sang the Beatles' "Come Together," and Cowell compared his cover to "eating ice for lunch." Meaning, it leaves "you with nothing to remember afterward," he said.

Allen—who's more Jason Mraz than Axl Rose—appears much more at home playing acoustic guitar than he did jamming with guest mentor Slash at the Roxy in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Lambert one-upped his competitors yet again. DioGuardi crowned Lambert a "rock god" following his rousing rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" that showed off his signature banshee howl.

AP

In this photo provided by FOX, Adam Lambert performs in front of the judges on American Idol on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 in Los Angeles.

"The problem is, nobody can top that now," Cowell said.

The judges mostly agreed that Iraheta should have picked another song besides Janice Joplin's "Cry Baby." The singing prodigy explained that another Joplin classic, "Piece of My Heart," had been done before and she was really feeling "Cry Baby."

A goofy grin on her face, Iraheta playfully needled Cowell: "You're always saying I don't talk enough, so maybe I should just talk a lot!"

Gokey, 28, of Milwaukee, also defended his performance. He stepped out of his soft pop-soul comfort zone to perform "Dream On" by Aerosmith. While Jackson gave his rendition an "A-plus for valiant effort," Cowell said Gokey's final note "was like watching a horror movie."

"I don't think it was as bad as they said it was," Gokey said before half-heartedly conceding: "I'll try better next time."

Gokey and the rest of the finalist will discover their fate on Wednesday's results show, and the two-part finale is just two weeks away.

Calif pageant eyes Prejean for contract violations

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The directors of the Miss California USA pageant are looking into whether title holder Carrie Prejean violated her contract by working with a national group opposed to same-sex marriage and by posing semi-nude when she was a teenage model.

Prejean

Pageant spokesman Roger Neal said Tuesday it appears Prejean has run afoul of several sections of the 12-page contract that all prospective contestants were required to sign before competing in the November state contest.

The detailed document prohibits the titular Miss California from making personal appearances, giving interviews or making commercials without permission from pageant officials. In the last 10 days, Prejean has made televised appearances at her San Diego church and on behalf of the National Organization for Marriage, a group opposed to same-sex marriage.

The contract also contains a clause asking participants to say whether they have conducted themselves "in accordance with the highest ethical and moral standards." As an example, it asks if they have ever been photographed nude or partially nude.

"As you can see from the contract, she violated multiple items," Neal said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

A photo of Prejean wearing only pink panties with her back turned to the camera appeared Monday on the gossip blog theDirty.com. She issued a statement early Tuesday saying she posed for the shot when she was a 17-year-old model and objected to its release as an attempt to belittle her religious faith: "I am a Christian, and I am a model. Models pose for pictures, including lingerie and swimwear photos."

Prejean spokeswoman Melany Ethridge said she could not comment on the contract because she was unfamiliar with its contents. Ethridge said she had not heard the pageant directors were reviewing it.

Prejean, a San Diego native who attends San Diego Christian College, was named the first runner-up to Miss North Carolina in the Miss USA pageant April 19. Her response to a question during the pageant that she opposed same-sex marriage made her a media sensation, darling of religious conservatives and the target of embarrassing disclosures.

Her post-pageant activities also have estranged her from the two directors of the state pageant, who under the terms of the contract have almost unlimited control over Miss California's activities, including the right to revoke her crown for breaching its provisions.

On the day last week that Prejean was in Washington with National Organization for Marriage leaders to announce her support for a new advertisement the group created based on her pageant experience, Keith Lewis, co-director of the California contest, expressed concern.

"There is a contract that all participants sign that is very involved and very intricate and limits a lot of their activities," said Lewis, a Los Angeles talent agent.

Meanwhile, the Miss Universe Organization, which also owns the Miss USA pageant, confirmed Tuesday that it had sent a letter demanding the National Organization for Marriage to remove the Prejean spot from the air and the group's Web site. It includes footage from the April 19 pageant.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Ana Igisair Kileleman

June 05, 1940 – May 03, 2009

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents : †GUILLERMO R. (Tun Kiyoshi) & †FRANSISKA (Tan Kika) Kileleman

Brothers & Sisters: †GREGORIO I. KILELEMAN
†MIGUEL I. KILELEMAN
†JOAQUIN I. KILELEMAN
†ABEL I. KILELEMAN
†JUAN I. KILELEMAN
†AMADA K. LIZAMA
†CECILIA I. KILELEMAN
†ESTEVAN I. KILELEMAN

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children : Arcelia & Richard Cody and Family
Juan Diego Kileleman
Lucia & John Gray and Family
Dwight & Evelyn Kileleman and Family
Joaquin Edwin & Hiromi Kileleman and Family
Donald & Janet Kileleman and Family
Brenda & Alfredo Dionisio and Family

Sisters : Carmen I Kileleman and family
Lolita I. Kileleman and family
Adoracion K. Hix and family

Brothers / Sister In-Laws:
Candelaria S. Kileleman and family
Prepidigna P. Kileleman and family
Cecilia T. Kileleman and family
Rafael V. Lizama (Lilia) and family
Millan C. Kileleman and family

She will also be missed by numerous caring friends and relatives.

On Monday, May 11, 2009 at 7:30am, her mortal remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to her residence at Tun Kiyoshi Road, As Lito. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00pm at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Interment services follows immediately at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Please Joins Us in Prayer.

THE FAMILY

Book: Kennedy ended Senate bid to please her kids

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A new book paints a picture of an intense, angry Caroline Kennedy bent on extending her family's legacy in the U.S. Senate only to end her quest when her kids no longer recognized their cool, composed mother.

The book is by Edward Klein, a best-seller who's been accused of using hearsay in other biographies.

"Ted Kennedy: The Dream That Never Dies," is excerpted in the June issue of Vanity Fair. The excerpt says Caroline Kennedy told New York Gov. David Paterson she was withdrawing from consideration for the Senate seat because her kids and husband felt she was becoming a different person.

The book shows jockeying inside the family to carry on the tradition of public service through politics after Sen. Edward M. Kennedy was diagnosed with brain cancer. Caroline stepped up with the strongly implied backing of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and President-elect Barack Obama. She felt the appointment "would automatically be hers," the book states, citing an unidentified family adviser.

In pursuing the appointment, she became "loud, harsh and grating," the book said, quoting a veteran attorney who spoke with her.

The book also says she was angry when Paterson didn't immediately name her to succeed Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Senate.

It was her children who "jerked Caroline back to reality," the book said. "What would her mother (Jackie) think of all this tabloid attention she was getting? ... That's when Caroline called Paterson and told him she was withdrawing her name."

The book also states, "Caroline's decision came as a crushing blow to Ted."

Kennedy spokesmen declined to comment Tuesday.

Victoria Principal sues former housekeeper

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Victoria Principal is embroiled in a legal fight with a former housekeeper that's worthy of a prime-time soap opera. It involves allegations of a gun, a sick dog and extortion.

Principal

Maribel Banegas claims she was fired by the former "Dallas" star on Dec. 26, but instead of paying her, the actress threatened to shoot her.

Principal, in a lawsuit filed Tuesday, states she pulled the gun only after Banegas injured her dog and was acting aggressively toward the actress and another worker. She claims Banegas repeatedly demanded money during an argument and refused to leave her home.

The dueling lawsuits will play out in Santa Monica, Calif. Neither woman's lawsuit lists an amount she is seeking.

The incident that sparked them happened at Principal's Malibu home. According to Principal's lawsuit, she hired Banegas from a temp agency and the woman was only employed with her for three days.

Banegas, in a lawsuit filed Friday, claims Principal fired her and refused to pay her after she took Principal's dog for a walk. The lawsuit claims Principal berated her for taking so long.

She claims that she locked herself in a room and called 911 after Principal pointed the gun at her. She is suing for false imprisonment, intentional infliction of emotional distress and assault.

A phone message left for Banegas' attorney, Chris Allgreen, wasn't immediately returned Tuesday morning.

Principal's lawsuit claims Banegas took her dog on Dec. 26, and that when she returned with it an hour later, the dog was "visibly choking and shaking." The suit states she and Banegas got into a shouting match, and that it was the worker's aggressive behavior that compelled her to grab her gun. Principal, 59, is suing for several claims including trespass, civil extortion and animal cruelty. Her lawsuit states that Banegas' treatment caused her dog to have weight loss and "significant injuries," including vertebrae damage.

Principal played Pamela Barnes Ewing in the hit series "Dallas" and has her own line of skin care products.

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★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Star Trek
Thursday 7:00
Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The story of a young crew's maiden voyage onboard the most advanced starship ever created: the U.S.S. Enterprise. On a journey filled with cosmic peril, the new recruits must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all of mankind. The fate of the galaxy rests in the hands of bitter rivals. One, James T. Kirk, is a delinquent, thrill-seeking Iowa farm boy.

★ ★ ★

X-Men Origins:Wolverine
Thursday 4:05 7:10
Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
X-Men Origins: Wolverine, the first chapter in the X-Men saga, unites Wolverine with several other legends of the X-Men Universe, in an epic revolution that pits the mutants against powerful forces determined to eliminate them.

X-Men Origins:Wolverine
Thursday 4:30 7:25
Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Ghost of Girlfriends Past
Thursday 4:10 7:15
Matthew McConaughhey, Jennifer Garner
Romantic, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Fighting
Thursday 4:15 7:30
Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13

State of Play
Thursday 4:00
Russel Crowe, Ben Affleck
Drama, Political • Rated PG 13

17 Again
Thursday 4:20 7:05
Zac Efron, Leslie Mann
Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Fast & Furious
Thursday 4:25 7:20
Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Green prince, animated frog fight deforestation

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince Charles has enlisted an animated amphibian in his campaign to protect the world's rainforests.

The 90-second video was launched online and in London on Tuesday by the Prince's Rainforest Project, Charles' environmental charity.

Speaking during a live podcast from the National Geographic Store in central London, the prince joked that he was "aware princes and frogs have a long association."

"However our frog has come to symbolize something new. Our frog is a symbol for the world's rainforests, a symbol of action against climate change," he said.

The Prince of Wales said the goal of the video is to "build an online community to call, from the bottom up, for urgent action to protect the rainforests, without which we will most certainly lose the battle against catastrophic climate change."

AP
In this image issued by Clarence House, Tuesday, May 5, 2009, Britain's Prince William, left, and Prince Harry sit alongside an animated frog in a clip from a 90-second video launched by Britain's Prince Charles in his campaign to protect the world's rainforests.

Charles is joined in the video by celebrities and friends ranging from Daniel Craig to the Dalai Lama. And a remarkably lifelike computer-animated frog, a reminder of some of the rainforests' residents, appears in each clip alongside the more famous faces.

The Dalai Lama holds the frog in his hands and introduces himself as a "simple Buddhist monk." Pele has a frog resting on his World Cup-winning foot. Actor Harrison Ford has the amphibian on his shoulder and says he is both a conservationist—"and friend of frogs."

The video is designed to be used on social networking sites—which the technology-shy Charles was made aware of by his sons, Princes William and Harry, who also appear in the video.

Marilyn French, feminist and novelist, dies at 79

NEW YORK (AP)—Marilyn French, the writer and feminist whose novel "The Women's Room" sold more than 20 million copies and transformed her into a leading figure in the women's movement, has died at 79.

French died of heart failure Saturday at a Manhattan hospital, said Carol Jenkins, a friend and president of New York's Women's Media Center.

She was an academic in 1977 when "The Women's Room," her first novel, was published. Her aim, she said, was "to change the entire social and economic structure of Western civilization, to make it a feminist world."

The landmark novel, which was translated into 20 languages, details the journey to independence of a 1950s housewife who gets divorced and goes to graduate school. The book mirrored aspects of French's own life experiences, including the rape of her daughter.

She was called anti-male after a character in the novel says: "All men are rapists, and that's all they are. They rape us with their eyes, their laws, and their codes."

"Those words came from a character, and she was not a man-hater and never said that in her personal life," Jenkins said. "But she wanted men to accept their part in the domination of women."

Still, the novel "connected with millions of women who had no way before of claiming their anger and discontent," Jenkins said.

The male subjugation of women is the main theme of French's novels, essays, literary criticism and her four-volume, nonfictional "From Eve to Dawn: A History of Women."

A Brooklyn native, French graduated from Long Island's Hofstra University with a master's degree, studying philosophy and English literature. She taught there in the 1960s. After her divorce, she earned a doctorate from Harvard and was an English professor at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

A smoker, she survived a battle with esophageal cancer in 1992 that included a 10-day coma she described in "Season in Hell: A Memoir."

Her last novel is to be published this fall, and she was also working on a memoir.

French is survived by her son, Robert French, of East Brunswick, N.J., and daughter Jamie French of Cambridge, Mass.

A memorial is planned for June in New York.

Dubai promoter: Rihanna shelves May concert

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Rihanna has shelved plans for a concert later this month in Dubai because the timing was "inappropriate," a Middle East concert promoter said Tuesday.

Yassin Matbouly, managing director of Vibe Entertainment Management Agency, said the Dubai-based promoter got "nothing in writing" from Rihanna's agents but was made to understand from managers negotiating the May 28 gig in the Gulf sheikdom that it won't work out.

The development came shortly after the pop star made a comeback on the red carpet in New York, arriving late Monday at the annual Costume Institute of The Metropolitan Museum gala. She did not speak to the press.

The Dubai concert was to be Rihanna's first singing performance since her then-boyfriend Chris Brown allegedly beat her up in February.

AP

Rihanna arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala in New York, on Monday, May 4, 2009.

Brown was arrested Feb. 8 and charged with felony assault and making criminal threats. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges. May 28 is also the date due for a hearing in Brown's case.

Matbouly told The Associated Press he was not aware of any connection between the two events.

He said May 28 was Vibe's preferred date to host Rihanna in Dubai, but in a month and a half of negotiations with Rihanna, her managers never fully committed to it.

"We put an offer across with a large amount of money, and it unfortunately did not happen," Matbouly said. "We heard it was inappropriate timing for her to have a public concert."

He added the company remains interested in hosting Rihanna in the region and will try to reschedule the concert.

NBC airs Farrah Fawcett's cancer journal

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC News next week will air a two-hour special on Farrah Fawcett's battle with cancer.

"Farrah's Story" is described as an extremely personal look at how the former "Charlie's Angels" star is coping and being treated. Fawcett is suffering from anal cancer that has spread to her liver and has suffered complications from an unrelated procedure performed in Germany.

Her friend Alana Stewart shot most of the footage with a home video recorder. Ryan O'Neal and former "Charlie's Angels" co-stars Jaclyn Smith and Kate Jackson appear. It follows the 62-year-old actress through treatments in the United States and Germany.

"This film is very personal," Fawcett said. "At the time, I didn't know if anybody would ever see it. But at some point, the footage took on a life of its own and dictated that it be seen."

Fawcett wanted to set the record straight about her diagnosis, treatment and future, said Doug Vaughan, NBC News senior vice president of specials and alternative development.

Fawcett said that she would have liked to have kept her cancer private, but realized others might benefit from learning about her experiences. NBC paid her a licensing fee for the footage, but isn't saying how much.

In this Aug. 29, 2004 file photo, actress Farrah Fawcett arrives for the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami.

AP

Wilco ex-member sues Jeff Tweedy for royalties

CHICAGO (AP)—A former member of Wilco is suing the band's lead singer, claiming he's owed royalties for songs during his seven years and five albums with the group.

Jay Bennett also claims in the breach-of-contract lawsuit filed Monday against singer Jeff Tweedy that he deserves money from the band's 2002 documentary, "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart." The film documents the making of Wilco's album "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot."

Bennett worked as a sound engineer and played instruments for the band from 1994 to 2001, according to the lawsuit filed in Cook County Circuit Court, which asks for at least $50,000 in damages.

The lawsuit said Bennett was compensated but only in "infrequent partial payments" equal to 15 percent of Wilco's income from sales and performances.

"As a recording musician in Wilco, Bennett is entitled to compensation for his services rendered in the form of continuing and perpetual artist royalty payments from" Tweedy, according to the lawsuit.

In a statement Tuesday, Tweedy said he doesn't know what the claims are based upon, adding that he didn't produce the movie, has done nothing wrong and hopes the matter will be handled fairly.

Bennett worked on the albums "Being There," "Summerteeth," "Mermaid Avenue," "Mermaid Avenue Vol. II" and "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," the lawsuit said.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Actor Jackman meets striker Ronaldo in Brazil

SAO PAULO (AP)—The Wolverine has met a real-life superhero of Brazilian soccer. Actor Hugh Jackman took time from promoting "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" to visit striker Ronaldo, who is showing Wolverine-like healing powers in his third comeback to competitive soccer. Jackman attended a practice of the Corinthians club Tuesday and gave a movie shirt to Ronaldo. The three-time FIFA player of the year reciprocated with a team jersey bearing the letter X instead of a number. Many thought Ronaldo was done after suffering the third serious knee injury of his career in February 2008. But the 32-year-old has thrived since suiting up for Corinthians this year, scoring eight goals in 11 matches to lead the club to its 26th state title on Sunday.

Another celeb dismissed from 'Dancing With Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The little celebrity with the big scores is leaving "Dancing With the Stars." Lil Kim was dismissed from the ABC dance-off Tuesday. She came into the results show with the week's second lowest score: 52 points out of 60. Fans failed to send the diminutive dancer to next week's semifinals. Show host Tom Bergeron said "there was a real shock in the room" when he announced Lil Kim would be leaving the competition. Four celebrity couples will face off in the semifinals.

'Family Guy' spinoff gets added boost from Fox

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox is rewarding "The Cleveland Show" with a second season even before the first season has begun. The spinoff from the network's hit animated series "Family Guy" is scheduled to premiere next fall. But now Fox says its boosting the initial 22-episode order by another 13 half-hours, which would carry the show into the 2010-11 season. From "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane, "The Cleveland Show" focuses on Cleveland Brown, a popular character from the "Family Guy" gang.

No buyer for Pablo Picasso painting at NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A Pablo Picasso painting of his young daughter and an Alberto Giacometti sculpture of a cat have failed to sell at a New York City auction. Each had been estimated to fetch between $16 million and $24 million. The Sotheby's auction house says bids at Tuesday evening's impressionist and modern art sale failed to meet the reserve prices for the artworks. Auctions of expensive artworks have seen weak sales amid the global financial crisis. The heaviest bidding Tuesday was for an abstract painting by Piet Mondrian called "Composition in Black and White, With Double Lines." It sold for more than $9 million, about twice its pre-sale estimate. Sotheby's says 29 of the 36 artworks sold for a total of $61 million, well off their $119 million estimate.

Star athlete's arrogance is familiar high school story

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a secondary school teacher and would like to comment on the letter from "Sports Dad Down South" (Feb. 9) about his teenaged, athletic star son.

That boy has an ego problem that is out of control. I see it in the classroom every day. Many successful athletes think that only the "little" people have to do class work, be on time to class and complete homework. They have the best relationships with their coaches who "intervene" on the athlete's behalf, regardless of behavior and effort—soliciting "help" for a student who often does not deserve it.

I have watched an athlete's arrogance fed daily by those who attach the kid's value as a person to the level of his performance at that evening's game. Abby, I hope that "Sports Dad's" stellar-performing son eventually will recognize that other influences are shallow and lack the depth of his father's love.

TEXAS TEACHER WHO KNOWS

DEAR TEACHER: Thank you for writing. I heard from many other teachers, administrators and parents—all eager to share what they have learned in dealing with teens who are high achievers in sports. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am also the parent of a talented athlete. He was popular in high school, great in football and basketball, and was wooed to university with a scholarship in hand. The problem was, in spite of our urging to buckle down and study, he admitted to us on high school graduation night that he had cheated the whole way through. Now at 21, he has thrown away his scholarship, quit the university, and is wandering around wondering why he was never picked up by the NFL.

Somewhere in high school, amid all the accolades, our son lost touch with reality. Please advise "Sports Dad" to not give up on his son while he still has a chance, and to impress upon him how important hard work and discipline are.

MOM IN MOURNING

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have stressed to our college baseball star son that no matter how successful any athlete is, there will come a time when he or she retires from their beloved sport. Not everyone makes it to the pros, and not all those who do have longevity or stunning success in the sport.

Questions the youngster must consider are: (1) What will he do when he is not playing anymore? (2) How is he going to help his community and society with his talent? And most important (3) what will he do if, God forbid, he is injured?

Having an idea of what he loves besides sports is very helpful. That will help "Dad" steer him into a college and major that fit.

BASEBALL MAMA IN SAN DIEGO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: To "Sports Dad": The fact that a 17-year-old finds your limits a problem can be a good thing, depending on how unrealistic his attitude is. His dislike of your parental positions can mean you are doing a good job. Kids really do not respect a doormat. He can have many friends, but he has only one dad.

KATHY IN METAIRIE, LA.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Has it occurred to "Sports Dad" to investigate the possibility that his son's behavior might be caused by steroids?

KATE IN ATLANTA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: That father and son remind me of a saying I heard years ago: "When they are 5 years old, they have all the questions. When they are 17, they have all the answers." I've found out through the years that this isn't far from reality.

BURL IN DALLAS, N.C.

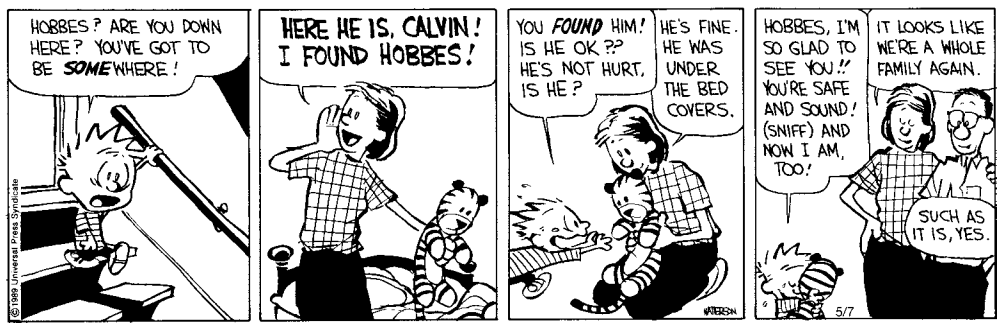
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOBBES? ARE YOU DOWN HERE? YOU'VE GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE!
HERE HE IS, CALVIN! I FOUND HOBBES!
YOU FOUND HIM! IS HE OK?? HE'S NOT HURT, IS HE?
HE'S FINE. HE WAS UNDER THE BED COVERS.
HOBBES, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!! YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND! (SNIFF) AND NOW I AM, TOO!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE A WHOLE FAMILY AGAIN.
SUCH AS IT IS, YES.
5/7
WATTERSON
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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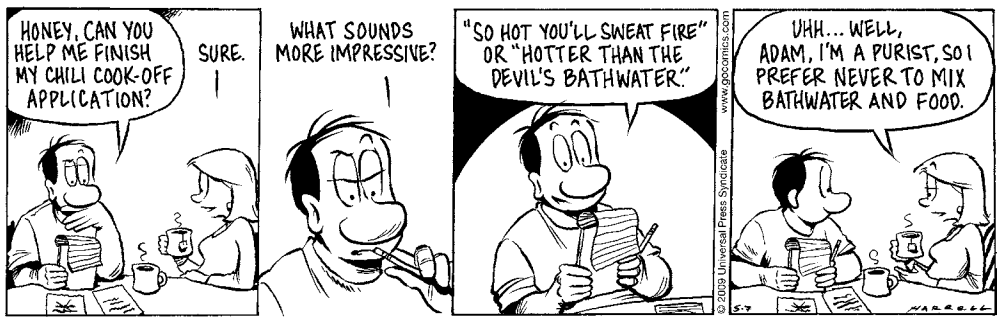
I'M DAYS 5-7
AHEM...
I'VE BEEN APPOINTED BY THE OTHER SPIDERS TO APPEAL TO YOUR SENSE OF HUMANITY. CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?
WELL?
BITE HIM ON THE EYELIDS!
Text GARFIELD to 22646 (US ONLY)
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HONEY, CAN YOU HELP ME FINISH MY CHILI COOK-OFF APPLICATION?
SURE.
WHAT SOUNDS MORE IMPRESSIVE?
"SO HOT YOU'LL SWEAT FIRE" OR "HOTTER THAN THE DEVIL'S BATHWATER."
UHH... WELL, ADAM, I'M A PURIST, SO I PREFER NEVER TO MIX BATHWATER AND FOOD.
www.gocomics.com
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5-7

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I KEEP GETTING INVITED BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE TO PLAY 'MAFIA WARS' ON FACEBOOK.
I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE SO I KEEP CLICKING 'YES.' I NOW BELONG TO SIX CRIME FAMILIES.
ISN'T THAT KIND OF THING GENERALLY FROWNED UPON IN THE REAL MOB?
GLENN McCOY
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
5/7

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

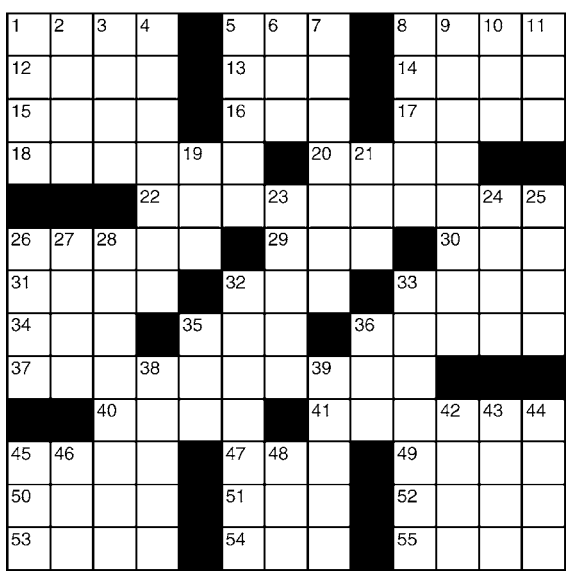
ACROSS
1 Dogfight participants
5 Energy
8 In the neighborhood
12 Ancient mariner
13 Courtroom pseudonym
14 Wheelbase terminus
15 Houston acronym
16 Joined at the hip
17 Couple, in a gossip column
18 Crowd scene actors
20 Sport
22 Pseudo-claimants to the throne
26 Diamond side
29 Scarlet
30 Wrestling surface
31 Black, to Browning?
32 Gravy, on a French menu
33 Challenge
34 Announcer Pardo
35 Payable
36 Tend the turkey
37 Larry King trademark
40 Sty cry
41 Inventor's insurance
45 Walk unevenly
47 Id counterpart
49 Largest of the seven
50 Wile E.'s supplier
51 Wage earner's burden
52 Poolroom prop
53 Honey bunch?
54 Bond, for one
55 Fist (Sl.)

DOWN
1 Hathaway or Heche
2 Wheedle
3 Right on the map?
4 Hone
5 Everyday writing
6 A billion years
7 Diminutive ones
8 Water nymph
9 Maximums
10 Pub order
11 Sleep phenom
19 Illustrations
21 Remnant
23 Aligned
24 Huck's transport
25 Eyelid woe
26 Govt. workers
27 "— ben Adhem"
28 Clear soup
32 Politicos' trips
33 Treacherous one
35 Lair
36 Support of a sort
38 They're calling Danny Boy
39 Strong adhesive
42 Birthright barterer
43 Shaving mishap
44 Snatch
45 Retriever type
46 Lemieux milieu
48 Diastema

Solution time: 25 mins.

		S	H	E			M	P	G			
	O	T	I	S			L	A	I	R	S	
T	R	A	N	Q			O	F	L	A	T	E
W	A	I	T	U	N	T	I	L	D	A	R	K
O	L	D		I	O	T	A	S		D	E	E
			A	R	G	O			P	I	C	A
	S	A	F	E	S		K	A	R	A	T	
S	E	P	T			A	I	D	E			
T	O	O		P	E	S	T	O		B	O	A
A	U	D	R	E	Y	H	E	P	B	U	R	N
	L	A	H	O	R	E		T	A	N	G	O
		L	E	N	I	N		E	D	D	Y	
			A	Y	E			D	E	T		

Yesterday's answer 5-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Traci Lords, 41; Amy Heckerling, 55; Robert Hegyes, 58; Bill Kreutzmann, 63

Happy Birthday: You will have to move quickly, quietly and without hesitation to stay ahead of the competition. An opportunity will present itself through a group to which you belong. Business developments will be based on knowledge, not popularity. Add your experience to the equation. Your numbers are 2, 11, 21, 27, 33, 39, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): If you believe it, you can make it happen. Partnerships can develop and talks will lead to new deals and contract renewals. Your charm and grace will make the people you deal with feel comfortable. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put more time and effort into helping others. You will pick up valuable information and gather favors that will pay you twofold in the future. Patience will allow you to stay in control and ahead of anyone trying to outdo you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get involved in a worthwhile cause and enhance your reputation while gaining valuable experience for other areas of your life. If you have to overspend to impress someone, you are trying to befriend the wrong person. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't give in to bribery or ultimatums. You do just fine the way you are and, if change is being pushed on you, back away and look elsewhere for friendship. You have to do things on your own terms, not someone else's. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take a long hard look at your accomplishments and set up a strategy that will enable you to expand your dreams, hopes and wishes. There are changes to be made both personally and professionally. A move or an investment will help you realize your niche. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Follow your heart not your head. Concentrate on your personal life and relationships if you want to be accepted and considered an asset. A problem with a colleague will be due to misrepresentation. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stick close to someone you can learn from. A love relationship can unfold differently, depending on how you react. Attentive affection will bring about a passionate ending but, if you are demanding, you will push away the person you want most. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do not give way to pressure being put on you by someone you are close to. A serious partnership will get even better if you are serious about your intentions and discuss your plans openly with this person. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Rely on past acquaintances to help you out now. Lay out your plans and you will entice someone to support you financially. You can make a change at home that will clear the air and allow you greater freedom to come and go as you please. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Question anything going on in your personal life that causes uncertainty. If someone puts up an argument, you may want to reassess the relationship. Property investments will help you accumulate greater security. Be true to the ones you love the most. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): There is money to be made while you gain security and stability in your life. You can work from home and profit more by keeping your overhead down. Talk to someone with experience who can offer you advice as well as physical help. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Practice what you preach and you will avoid someone questioning your integrity. A past partner can offer you a better deal now if you are willing to take another stab at an old idea. Secret information will be revealed. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are clever, intuitive and have drive and ambition. You stand by your word and, although you always fight to win, you are not afraid to lose.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			2	7			1	
								5
			1	5		4		
2		7			3			
3		9				5		2
			4			9		8
		5		8	9			
7								
	1			4	5			7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	7	4	3	6	5	2	1
2	3	5	8	7	1	4	9	6
6	4	1	9	5	2	7	3	8
9	1	2	5	6	7	3	8	4
3	7	4	1	8	9	6	5	2
5	8	6	2	4	3	1	7	9
7	2	3	6	1	8	9	4	5
4	6	8	3	9	5	2	1	7
1	5	9	7	2	4	8	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SMOOTHIES **Solution: 9 letters**

C	S	R	E	M	M	U	S	C	L	K	E	(K)	R	H
B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	C	L	(L)	C	O	O
C	M	E	B	G	P	O	L	A	P	(I)	I	I	L	H
N	I	E	A	U	U	E	N	P	(M)	U	D	H	O	E
U	N	G	E	M	C	S	A	A	L	E	R	T	C	R
T	T	A	S	T	Y	E	L	C	T	A	E	E	G	B
R	F	R	O	E	N	I	C	A	H	E	E	A	N	A
I	O	E	D	I	Z	O	R	I	W	A	C	M	I	L
T	R	V	P	A	C	E	B	S	L	T	I	O	H	A
I	T	E	R	K	G	L	E	L	H	X	U	U	S	C
O	I	B	T	I	E	P	I	R	E	E	J	N	E	I
N	F	A	R	N	I	N	E	S	F	N	R	T	R	P
A	I	F	D	C	A	N	A	N	A	B	D	B	F	O
L	E	E	E	V	I	T	A	M	I	N	S	E	E	R
R	D	R	I	N	K	S	S	E	N	T	I	F	R	T

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2. **Price.** The property will be sold to the highest bidder.

3. **Condition of Property.** As is.

4. **Warranties and Covenants.** The sale shall be without warranties of any kind, and it is the buyer's responsibility to verify title of the property.

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6. **Right of Redemption.** Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4541, the property sold in this sale may be redeemed at any time, within 12 months after the date of sale, and in accordance with 2 CMC § 4542.

7. **Contact Information.** Please submit written offers to Frances C. Quichocho, at the Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho, LLC, on the 2nd Floor, Sign Arts Building, San Jose, P.O. Box 505621, Saipan, MP 96950, by no later than May 20, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the undersigned at 670.234.8946.

/s/ Ramon K. Quichocho

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LeBron scores 34 in Cavaliers win over Hawks

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers shook off some rust, and then the Atlanta Hawks.

Newly crowned MVP LeBron James scored 34 points and the well-rested Cavs, who waited nine days between playoff games after a first-round sweep, pulled away in the second half for a 99-72 win over the Atlanta Hawks in their Eastern Conference semifinal opener on Tuesday.

Showing why he was voted the league's best player in a landslide, James added 10 rebounds, three assists and four steals as the top-seeded Cavs won their fifth straight lopsided game in a postseason that has so far mirrored the best regular season in franchise history.

Mo Williams added 21 points for Cleveland, which has won each of its five games by double figures.

With the Cavs up by 21, James was pulled with 4:29 left—extra down time before Game 2 on Thursday night at Quicken Loans Arena, where the Cavaliers are 42-2.

Josh Smith scored 22 and Mike Bibby 19 for the Hawks, who needed seven games to get past Miami and are playing in the second round for the first time in 10 years.

James was presented with his MVP trophy before the game by league commissioner David Stern, who complimented the 24-year-old superstar's selflessness, saying "you led the team by playing team first" to get the award. James did that for all 35 minutes on the floor.

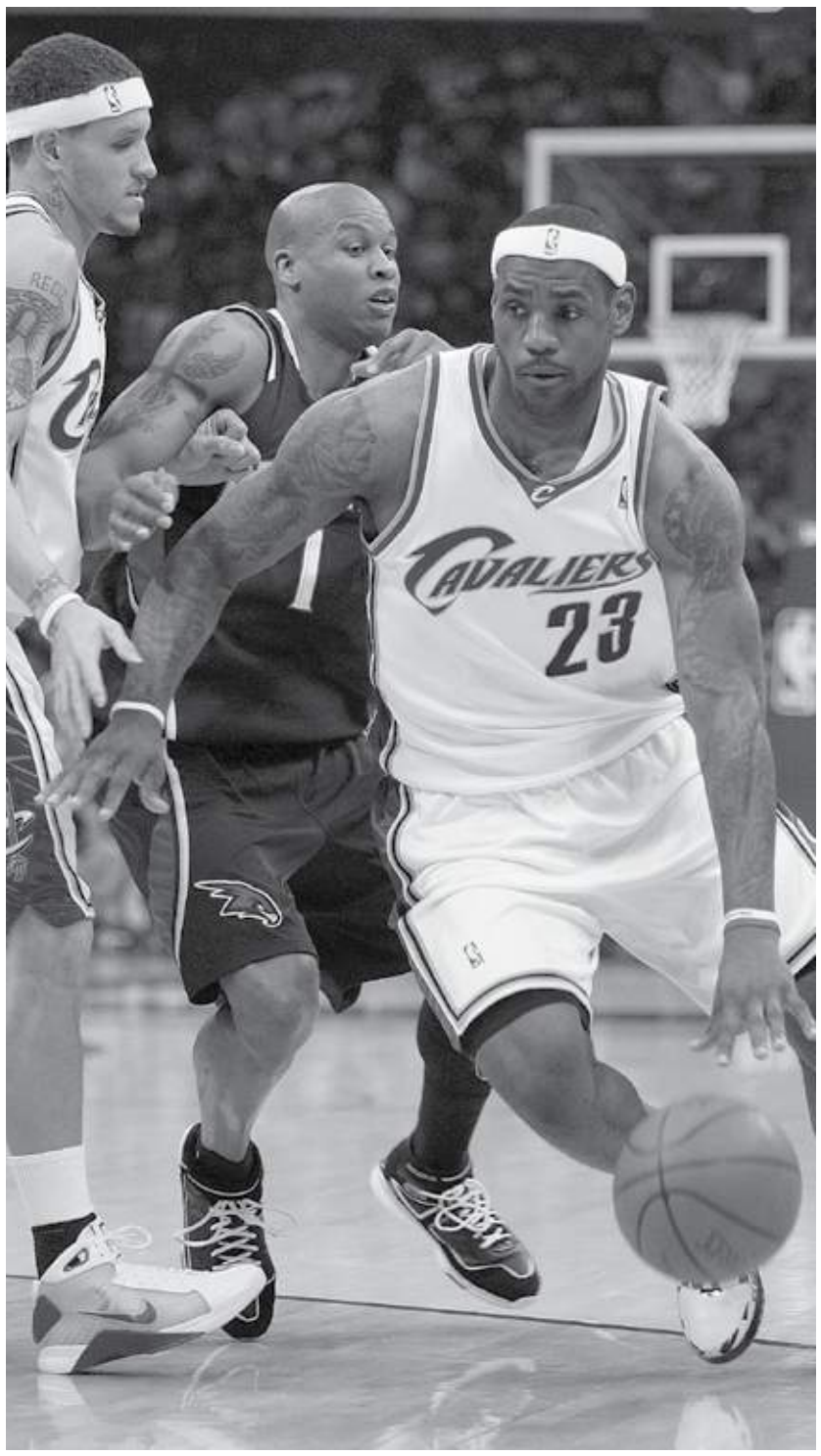
Stern's praise was nearly drowned out by more than 20,000 fans chanting "M-V-P!" in another salute to James, the first Cavaliers player to win the award.

Not wanting to take part in Cleveland's celebration, the Hawks stayed in their locker room and only took the floor after James addressed the crowd.

Perhaps out of sync because of the long layoff, the Cavs were sluggish in the first half and didn't take control until the third quarter, when they outscored the Hawks 28-17. As usual, Cleveland relied on its defense to turn things around after halftime.

"I think the team knew and I knew the ceremony was going to happen, but we still had a game to play," James said. "We didn't want to rain in the ceremony by not preparing ourselves the best way to come out and play. We had some lapses in the first half, but we got it going in the third and fourth quarter and took care of the game."

With the Hawks still within eight, James was all alone on defense but stopped a 2-on-1 by drawing a charge on Joe Johnson. Later in the quarter, Wally Szczerbiak moved his feet to take a charge, a defensive play that had Cavs coach Mike Brown dancing on the sideline as if it was a game-winning shot.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past Atlanta Hawks' Maurice Evans (1) as Cavaliers' Delonte West sets the screen in the first quarter of an NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals game Tuesday, May 5, 2009, in Cleveland.

James had 22 points at halftime but zero assists, a sign that Cleveland's offense wasn't in rhythm.

He finally set up Williams for a 3-pointer and then another as the Cavs opened an 11-point lead in the third quarter.

James then went on a personal nine-point run, scoring on two drives, a 3-pointer and an alley-oop slam off a sweet pass from Delonte West.

James arrived so early that he was on the floor shooting before the lights were fully illuminated inside Quicken Loans Arena.

To a seat-shaking soundtrack that included Jay-Z and Snoop Doog, James worked his way around the 3-point line, dropping shot after shot off crisp passes from Cavs assistant coach Chris Jent—more than three hours before tipoff. Apparently, MVP also stands for Most Valuable Practitioner.

Hawks coach Mike Woodson knew his team had its hands full.

"I have never seen a player as young as LeBron, as strong as LeBron, as quick and as athletic as LeBron that has all the fundamental tools a player can have," Woodson said before the game. "I have never seen that type of player in my lifetime. And he's still young. That's the scary thing."

Wearing special Nikes to honor his MVP win, James was scary from the outset, starting like he needed to prove he deserved the award.

He dunked on Cleveland's first possession, got his second bucket on a left-handed finger roll and finished the first quarter with 16 points and five rebounds, leading the Cavs to a 25-21 lead.

But it was when James sat that the Cavaliers opened a 12-point lead. The Hawks, though, didn't let Cleveland get any further away.

With Bibby making two 3-pointers and Smith driving for dunks or easy baskets, Atlanta, which shot 56 percent from the floor, was within 49-44 at halftime.

Nuggets 117, Mavericks 105

At Denver, the Dallas Mavericks toughened up and clamped down Tuesday night, and it still wasn't enough to beat the high-flying Denver Nuggets.

Carmelo Anthony led another fourth-quarter blitz by the Nuggets, who overcame Dirk Nowitzki's 35 points and more hustle and muscle from the Mavericks for a victory.

The Nuggets are up 2-0 in their best-of-seven series.

Anthony scored 15 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, Nene scored 25, J.R. Smith had 21 and Chauncey Billups 18 for the Nuggets, who won for the 15th straight time at the Pepsi Center, where they haven't lost since March 11.

The series shifts to Dallas for Game 3 Saturday night, and the Mavericks can only hope they're going to be as good on their home court as the Nuggets were on theirs.

"It's kind of shocking we have three days off," said Nuggets coach George Karl, who would much prefer to keep the momentum going by playing sooner.

The Mavericks are 17-1 at home since the All-Star break, but that one loss was to Denver.

The Mavericks now face the daunting task of having to win four of five against the Nuggets, a team they're 0-6 against this season and one that is playing with so much confidence and efficiency.

"They've held serve," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "We go back to Dallas and we've got to do the same. We've got a few days to regroup and work on some things."

The Nuggets, whose six postseason wins have come by an average of 24.8 points, broke open a back-and-forth game by starting the fourth quarter on a 16-2 run, sparked by Anthony's 10 points, to take a 102-85 lead.

"We're just an explosive team in that way," Billups said. "That's just kind of what we do. That's who we've been all year."

Dallas didn't score until Brandon Bass's basket at the 8:36 mark, and then they went another 2 1/2 minutes without another point until two free throws by Nowitzki.

Ever since the playoffs started, Denver has made a habit of using a fourth-quarter spurt to create both separation and doubt in its opponents' heads.

"I think the second and third quarter, Dallas was the better basketball team today," Karl said. "But then there's just a character of our team to get tough in the fourth and for some reason we make a lot of 3s in the fourth."

After getting pushed around in the opener, the Mavericks said they had to stand up to the bullying in Game 2 and they tinkered with their starting lineup, replacing Jose Juan Barea with Antoine Wright.

They wanted to attack the rim more, but Josh Howard's two sprained ankles sent him to the bench after six scoreless minutes. They still improved the differential in points in the paint while also taking better care of the ball—until their fourth-quarter follies.

After committing 20 turnovers in the opener, they coughed it up 13 times in Game 2, including five times in the final period.

"Well, again turnovers were our undoing early in the fourth," Carlisle said. "I thought we did a great job hanging in the first half and then the third quarter. Maybe it was a little bit fatigue again. A couple turnovers, it started a run and we didn't recover from it."

The Mavericks trimmed an early double-digit deficit to 58-55 at halftime when Jason Kidd hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer after Smith put up a 3-pointer with too much time left on the shot clock.

Kenyon Martin, who was slapped with a $25,000 fine for a hard foul on Nowitzki in the opener, was whistled for a double technical when he was grabbed by Ryan Hollins around his waist and tried to wrangle free. The Nuggets, who called the monetary fine overkill, also took umbrage at this whistle.

Nowitzki, whose five free throws in Game 1 drew the ire of Carlisle, went to the line 13 times, making 12 of them.

The Nuggets got the crowd back into it when Billups beat Jason Terry to a loose ball and fed to Smith under the basket for an electrifying dunk that gave Denver a 77-76 lead.

Smith pickpocketed Terry for a breakaway slam and Billups' 3 made it 84-78, but the Mavericks cut the deficit to 86-83 heading into the fourth quarter.

MVP James honored in pregame tribute

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James pressed the trophy high above his head and gave 20,000 Cleveland fans another chance to chant "M-V-P!"

This time, officially.

James was presented with the league's top individual award on Tuesday night by commissioner David Stern before the Cavaliers hosted the Atlanta Hawks in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal.

James actually won the award on Monday and received it during an intimate ceremony at his alma mater, St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron. Only James' teammates, family members, friends and hundreds of students were able to attend in the school's small gymnasium.

Cleveland's Quicken Loans Arena was sold out for the Cavaliers' first playoff game in nine days, and James made sure to thank fans during a brief pregame speech.

"You guys have a big part in this MVP trophy," he said. "I know you've been waiting around for nine days. I'm ready to get back on the court."

James, who was on the floor practicing more than three hours before tipoff, was in MVP form from the outset. He scored on a dunk for the Cavs' first two points and finished the first quarter with 16 and five rebounds.

Stern praised the 24-year-old James, who won the award by a wide margin over Kobe Bryant and Dwyane Wade, two of his teammates on the U.S. Olympic team that won a gold medal at last summer's Beijing Olympics.

"We've seen someone bloom before our very eyes," Stern said. "It's been a great, great year and it's fun to see the Cavs having this great run and LeBron leading it."

James is the first Cavaliers player to win the award and Cleveland's first professional athlete to be chosen best in his sport since Browns quarterback Brian Sipe was NFL MVP in 1980.

Stern has been impressed with James' ability to handle the extreme expectations that accompanied his hyped arrival in the pros six years ago.

"I'm always concerned when someone very young is overhyped and enormous pressures are put on him. I always feel the sense of protectiveness," Stern said. "But I think we've seen LeBron and his team grow together, and he seems to be a worthy recipient of the endorsements and accolades he is receiving.

"As you watch over the years, you want your players to develop. But that's been true as we watch a lot of our young men develop."

Source: Favre to meet with Vikings coach Childress

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Just when Brett Favre looked to finally be out, the Minnesota Vikings could be pulling him back in. Citing an anonymous source "with direct knowledge of the discussions between the two parties," ESPN reported Tuesday that Favre is scheduled to meet with Vikings coach Brad Childress later this week about a possible comeback with Minnesota.

Favre's agent, Bus Cook, did not immediately return a phone call to his Mississippi office left by The Associated Press.

Childress did not immediately return a message. A Vikings spokesman declined to comment on the report.

Both Favre and Cook have said this spring that Favre intends to stay retired. But Favre's statement after he was released by the New York Jets last week left the door open.

"At this time, I am retired and have no intention of returning to football," he said.

Those three little words—"At this time"—set off rampant speculation that he was indeed considering a second return to action.

Childress said Friday he had been too busy to concentrate on Favre, but did acknowledge the subject would soon be broached.

"We talk about everything," Childress said then, "from what's going on in the United States on the front page today. ... We talk about everything, so yeah, I'm sure we'll talk about that."

It wouldn't be the first time.

Favre spent 16 seasons in Green Bay, retiring in 2008 after leading the Packers to the NFC title game. He changed his mind a few months later, which set up a long and messy soap opera that ultimately led to his trade to the Jets.

It was believed all along that Favre, after hearing Green Bay's plans to go with Aaron Rodgers at quarterback, wanted to come to NFC North rival Minnesota so he could exact some revenge on the Packers.

But the Packers would have none of it. The team filed tampering charges against the Vikings, alleging improper contact between Favre and Vikings offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell, a friend of Favre's from his days as Green Bay's quarterbacks coach.

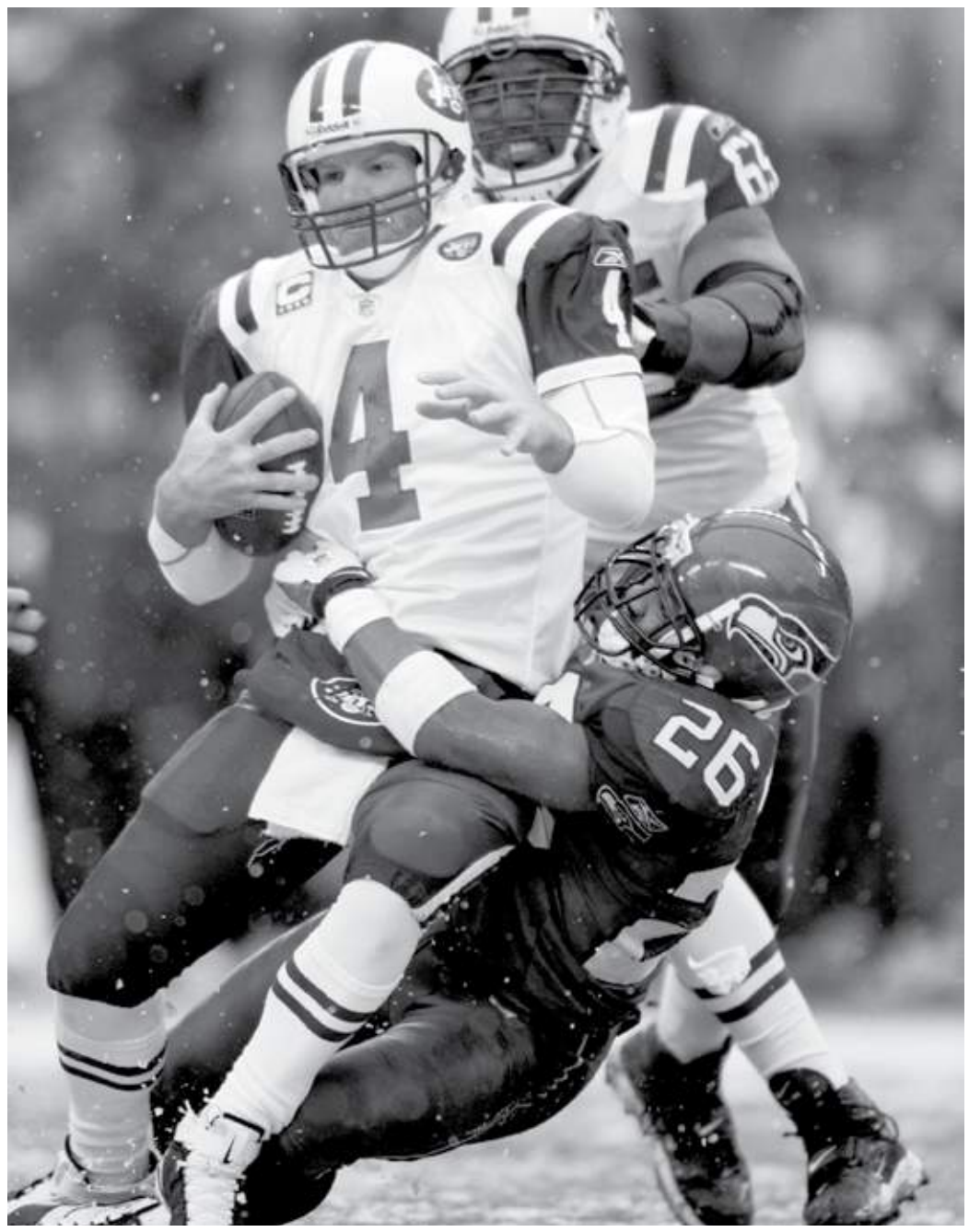
The league cleared the Vikings of all charges. Green Bay included in the trade to New York a clause that made it all but impossible for the Jets to turn around and ship Favre to the Vikings.

But when the Jets granted the 39-year-old Favre his release last week, it made him a free agent who is eligible to sign with any team he chooses. And many experts say the Vikings are a quarterback away from being a legitimate Super Bowl contender.

With unproven veterans Sage Rosenfels and Tarvaris Jackson slated to duke it out in training camp for the starting job, it would come as no surprise that the Vikings would at least consider adding a three-time MVP who holds the career records in every major statistical passing category, including interceptions.

But the move would not come without questions.

After an impressive start to his first and only season in New York—he threw a career-high six touchdown passes in a win over Arizona in Week 4—Favre's production dipped considerably over the final five games while he dealt with shoulder and biceps injuries. He threw nine interceptions in that span and the Jets stumbled to a 1-4 finish.



AP

In this Dec. 21, 2008, file photo, New York Jets quarterback Brett Favre is sacked by Seattle Seahawks cornerback Josh Wilson (26) as Jets' Brandon Moore looks on from rear during an NFL football game in Seattle.

Red Sox complete rainy sweep of Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason Bay hit a three-run homer in a four-run first inning against Joba Chamberlain, and Boston beat New York 7-3 on Tuesday night for a rainy two-game sweep in the first trip to its rival's $1.5 billion ballpark.

Boston improved to 5-0 against New York for the first time since 1985 and has outscored the Yankees 38-23. New York is 6-5 overall at its new home following three straight losses.

Chamberlain (1-1) allowed hits to his first five batters, then recovered to strike out a career-high 12 in 5 2-3 innings.

Josh Beckett (3-2) bounced back from two poor outings and allowed his only runs on Johnny Damon's(notes) three-run homer in the third.

Beckett allowed 10 hits in six-plus innings, lowering his ERA from 7.22 to 6.75. Hideki Okajima(notes) followed with six straight outs.

Singles by Ellsbury, Dustin Pedroia and David Ortiz put Boston ahead, and Bay homered into the left-field seats, the 37th homer in 11 games at Yankee Stadium. Bay is 10 for 18 (.556) with three homers and 10 RBIs against the Yankees this season.

Tigers 9, Twins 0

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer, Clete Thomas had three hits in his season debut and rookie Rick Porcello threw seven scoreless innings for Detroit.

Thomas had a triple, double, single and walk—driving in two runs—and Josh Anderson had two hits and an RBI. Cabrera went 3 for 4 with four RBIs.

Porcello (2-3) gave up four hits and lasted seven innings, matching his best performance in those categories in five starts.

Blue Jays 10,

At Toronto, Adam Lind hit a three-run homer and Scott Rolen added a solo shot in Toronto's seven-run seventh inning.

Trailing 6-3 after the Indians scored four times in the top of the seventh, the Blue Jays managed seven runs and six hits off four relievers in the bottom half.

With one out, Raul Chavez and Travis Snider singled off Rafael Perez. Vinnie Chulk (0-1) walked Marco Scutaro and left after Aaron Hill's two-run single. Alex Rios followed with an RBI single off Jensen Lewis.

Tony Sipp replaced Lewis after the second out, but Lind homered into the second deck in right before Rolen homered to left.

Rays 6, Orioles 3

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Matt Garza pitched eight strong innings and major league RBI leader Evan Longoria drove in three runs for Tampa Bay.

Garza (3-2) allowed three runs and four hits and improved to 6-0 lifetime against the Orioles. Brian Shouse got the first two outs of the ninth, and Troy Percival finished up for his fourth save.

Rangers 7, Mariners 2, 10 innings

At Seattle, Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a grand slam that capped a six-run burst with two outs in the 10th inning off emergency fill-in Denny Stark, and Texas won its fourth straight.

Seattle rookie Shawn Kelley entered to begin the 10th, threw three pitches to Elvis Andrus and then fell in pain from a strained muscle on his left side.

Royals 8, White Sox 7, 11 innings

At Kansas City, Mo., John Buck lined a game-winning single with the bases loaded in the 11th inning for Kansas City.

The Royals came back from a 4-0 deficit to tie it at 7-all on Billy Butler's run-scoring single in the seventh. Mitch Maier set up the winning run by walking with one out, then went to third on Willie Bloomquist's hit-and-run single off Lance Broadway (0-1). Alberto Callaspo was intentionally walked and Buck lined the next pitch just past third baseman Josh Fields.

Angels 5, Athletics 3

At Oakland, Calif., Gary Matthews Jr.(notes) drove in three runs and Shane Loux provided another solid start by Los Angeles' patchwork rotation as the Angels won for the sixth time in eight games.

Chone Figgins had three hits and drove in two runs for the Angels.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 1

At Los Angeles, the Dodgers tied the modern major league record for the longest home winning streak to start a season, improving to 12-0 at Chavez Ravine as Jeff Weaver pitched them to a over Arizona.

The defending NL West champions now share the mark with the 1911 Detroit Tigers, who accomplished the feat at Bennett Park the year before they moved into Tiger Stadium.

Padres 2, Rockies 1, 10 innings

At San Diego, Brian Giles doubled in the winning run in the 10th inning and San Diego snapped a six-game losing streak.

Giles' one-out double off Matt Daley (0-1) scored pinch-hitter Edgar Gonzalez from first base to give the Padres their third win in the last 15 games.

Brewers 8, Pirates 5

At Pittsburg, J.J. Hardy drove in four runs on three hits and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh for its 17th consecutive victory over the Pirates, the majors' longest winning streak by one team against another in nearly 40 years.

The Brewers' domination of the Pirates is the longest since Baltimore won 23 consecutive games against Kansas City during the 1969 (11) and 1970 (12) seasons. The Pirates haven't beaten the Brewers since May 22, 2008.

Reds 7, Marlins 0

At Miami, Brandon Phillips tied a career high with six RBIs and Edinson Volquez allowed three hits in eight innings for Cincinnati.

Nick Masset pitched a perfect ninth to complete the Reds' sixth shutout this season, and their fourth in the past six games. Volquez (4-2) extended a personal streak of 16 1-3 consecutive scoreless innings.

Mets 4, Braves 3

At Atlanta, Livan Hernandez earned his fourth win in 25 career starts against Atlanta and New York completed a rare series sweep at Turner Field.

The Mets won two games for their first sweep of any series in Atlanta since winning three games in 2007.

Phillies 10, Cardinals 7

At St. Louis, Shane Victorino was 4 for 5 with a home run and three RBIs and Jayson Werth(notes) had a three-run shot and four RBIs for Philadelphia.

Ryan Ludwick and Yadier Molina hit solo homers in a span of three at-bats to help St. Louis cut the deficit to 4-3 in the fourth. Werth answered with a three-run shot in the fifth off Adam Wainwright (3-1).

Giants 6, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Tim Lincecum allowed four hits over seven innings and Bengie Molina hit a three-run homer for San Francisco.

Lincecum (3-1) struck out seven and walked two in ending the Cubs' four-game winning streak.

Nationals 10, Astros 10, 11 innings, susp.

At Washington, A sloppy matchup between Washington and Houston wound up without a winner when the game was suspended by rain with the score tied at 10 in the bottom of the 11th inning.

Because the Astros aren't scheduled to return to Washington this season, the game will be resumed July 9 in Houston with the Nationals as the home team.

Celis, Lebria stand out in softball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Freedom Air's Roy Celis and Finances Liz Lebria were busy during the awards ceremony for the Budweiser 2008-2009 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League Thursday at the Capital Hill Ballfield, as they won several individual awards.

Celis had the most doubles, home runs, and RBIs and to top it all, she also went home with the regular season MVP award in the men's division.

The Freedom Air slugger made 12 doubles, 21 homers, and 58 RBIs in 19 games. He was fifth overall in the batting race after going 49-for-69 for an average of .710.

Docomo's Payton Sakuma was the season's batting champion with his .788 average. He hit 41-for-52 at the plate, beating Department of Community and Cultural Affair's Julian Camacho (.727), POI's Mabel Ngirngemelas (.720), and DCCA's Mel Sakisat (.714).

Pete Teigita of the Department of Land and Natural Resources went home with the most triples award with six, outclassing Ben Taisacan , Ben Tagabuel, and Vinnie Sablan, who had five each.

Freedom Air's Roque Camacho won the pitching race with his 4.64 ERA. In 14 games and 80 innings pitched, Camacho gave up 82 runs and allowed 125 hits. He had an 11-2 record in those 14 matches.

J.J. Salas was this season's strikeouts king with 30, beating Esang Olkeriil (27), Steve Igisair (24), Sakisat (23), Leo Bobai (22), and Ruben Olkeriil (21).

In the women's division, Lebria had to return to home plate to receive multiple trophies. She was named batting race queen and topped the runs scored, and home runs categories.

Lebria went 28-for-42 at bat for an average of .667. She had 23 runs scored, edging Lillian Aguon (22), Felisa Brel (20), Lenice Kapileo (20), Bert Camacho (19), and Kuki Pangelinan (19).

The Finance outfielder tied four others in the most home runs scored with 12. Lebria was in the company of Bert Camacho, Angie Ngribedul, Pangelinan, and Pauline Tudela.

Lebria took her fourth trophy when she was named regular season MVP.

Also taking home multiple trophies was Tudela. The Finance player topped the triples (11) and RBIs (23) categories. NMC's Pangelinan led in doubles (3), while DCCA's Eula Matsumoto ruled the strikeouts competition with 24.

Finance's Bego Camacho prevailed in the pitching race, posting 2.60 ERA. She pitched 71 innings in 11 games and had a 7-4 record. Bego gave up 91 runs and allowed 125 hits.

Joining the regular season awardees were DCCA's Julian Camacho and Brel, who were adjudged Finals MVP after leading their team's to the championship in the men's and women's divisions, respectively.

GECKOS

From Page 28

cord and had to win two games in the playoffs to make it to the finals. The Geckos first beat MBA, 59-39, and stunned deposed champions MCS Knights in the semis, 58-52, to set a title duel with the heavily favored Eagles.

In the finals, GCA started strong behind Kevin De Leon, Max Camacho, and siblings Dae Won and Dae Min Jeon, who gave the Eagles a 15-10 lead.

SIS tied the game at halftime, 19-all, as it held GCA to four points in the second period. The Geckos grabbed the lead at the end of the third period, 27-25, with Arnold Lee making a triple and Yi Shang Wang and Lucas Knecht adding two points apiece.

SIS had their biggest lead at 10 points, 41-31, and the score remained unchanged, as GCA failed to score in the last three minutes of the fourth quarter.

The Eagles started to fall apart in the closing minutes of the game, committing several errors and missing easy shots. Dae Won Jeon, who dominated the league in the regular season, had a nightmare against the clamping defense of SIS. Knecht, Miguel Brostrom, and Wang alternately hounded Dae Won Jeon, who had a hard earned 10 points, muffed numerous point-blanked shots, and missed all his six free throws.

In contrast, SIS was steady in the stretch with Lee nailing his third triple of the game and Brostrom and Wang canning free throws to secure the victory.

SIS 41 – A. Lee 16, Wang 13, Knecht 6, Borja 4, Brostrom 2, H. Lee 1.

GCA 31 – De Leon 10, D.W. Jeon 10, Camacho 6, D.M. Jeon 5, Hong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-15, 19-19, 27-25, 41-31.

BANMI

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Barry, for her part, said since the very beginning her company has always been part of the sports community and that IT&E is pleased to support the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament.

"We've been supporting youth sports and in general sports in the CNMI for a very long time. Since even before we were IT&E. We do try to balance it [by supporting] basketball, baseball, tennis, everything in the community. We worked with FIBA Oceania last year to help send our CNMI athletes to Guam for the tournament and we felt like we needed to do it again for the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament," she said.

The 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament will run from June 20 to 28 and feature the men's and women's teams of Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Palau, Guam, Fiji, Tahiti, and host CNMI.

It will be the biggest ever regional basketball competition that the CNMI will be hosting. The last time the CNMI hosted a regional basketball tournament was in 2006 during the Micronesian Games.

The tournament will have two draws for the men's and women's competition. In the men's draw, the CNMI was placed in Pool B, along with Australia, Guam, and New Caledonia. Pool A will consist of Fiji, Tahiti, Palau, and New Zealand.

In the women's draw, the CNMI was placed in Pool A, along with Fiji, Guam, and New Zealand. Pool B will consist of Tahiti, New Caledonia, Palau, and Australia.

The additions of Joeten and IT&E bring to three the number of gold sponsors for the tournament. Tan Holding Corp. was the first to sign on as gold sponsor for the event. McDonald's Saipan also has donated $2,000 to BANMI.

BANMI said additional sponsorships are still available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament.

For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact BANMI president Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or Michael White at 234-6547.

8 TRIUMPH

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Izuka in the semis, 8-6, and topped Chris Park in the finals, 8-3. Chris beat Jack Sharer, 8-2; Mikayla Lopez, 8-3; and Carl Dela Cruz, 8-3, before bowing to Daniel.

Sue Knecht secured the women's 2.0 division tiara after prevailing over Anne Song in the title match, 8-5, while Vickie Izuka took the women's 3.0 championship after winning over Ling Lihua in the finals, 8-5.

Lihua advanced to the semis after topping Delia Johnson in the semis, 8-4, while Vickie booked the other finals seat after edging Sarah Brostrom in the semifinals in a tiebreaker, 8-7 (7-4).

The women's 4.0 title showdown featured perennial rivals Lydia Tan and Yuri Hatamata with the former winning in the finals, 8-3. Sakiko Eda defeated Melanie Daly in the battle for third, 8-1.

Fizer, Fiesta's sports and recreation manager, competed in his first tournament and won the men's 3.0 title after defeating Edward Armia in the finals, 8-5.

In the men's 4.0 division, Jang walloped Richard Brostrom in the finals, 8-4. Junior tennis player Jake Lee, who bowed to Jang in the semis, 8-5, beat Gary Ramsey in the consolation game, 8-6.

The Top 4 placers in each division of the tournament organized by Fiesta tennis instructor Peter Loyola received medals, which IT&E donated. Winners were feted at the awards banquet held at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Sunday night.

Loyola wished to thank the following for supporting the tournament and the awards banquet: IT&E, Knecht family, Lydia Tan, Vickie Izuka, Fizer, Daly, AMP Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner, and the parents of all junior players.

MVA

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mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

While the decision on XTERRA Saipan is still up in the air, Tenorio took time to thank Taga, Inc., specifically its president Wolf Mojica and co-founder Bill Sakovich, for the great work they've done in the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest, which also included the 20th Tagaman Triathlon.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority extends it congratulations to Taga Inc. for successfully coordinating the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon. We also value these events in promoting sports tourism in our CNMI and the exposure it brings to the Commonwealth," he said.

Taga, Inc. has tentatively scheduled the XTERRA Saipan for March 13, 2010, with the Tagaman following on March 20, 2010.

Organizers are also planning on hosting XTERRA University for both Japanese speaking and English speaking participants, a first in the nine-year history of the event.

While Taga, Inc. saluted Saipan Sports Fest sponsors like MVA, Pacific Island Club, IT&E, Coca Cola, Subway, Glimpses of Saipan, Foremost, Docomo Pacific, DFS Galleria, Mojica and Sakovich also gave kudos to all the volunteers that made the event a success.

"It's a heck of a lot of work and we wouldn't have done it without the support of all the volunteers, the government agencies, and everyone. Some of the things ended up as a last-minute thing. I just wish we could do this well in advance so that we're not waiting until the last couple of days to throw everything together. But it always turns out well," said Sakovich.

Mojica is also grateful for all the help Taga, Inc. received during the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest.

"There are many people who were involved in the planning of these events and they are too numerous to thank individually, but I tried to talk to each of them or send an email to their group to thank them for their help. We have a wonderful community here and I am blessed to be a part of it," he said.

Mojica said for next year he would also like to see more spectators at the finish line of both the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman.

"This may mean inviting schools to come down as a field trip or other groups to come down and cheer on all the athletes both off island and local. These are world class events and need the support of the local community," he said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	19	10	.655	-
Boston	17	10	.630	1
New York	13	13	.500	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	12	16	.429	6 1/2
Baltimore	10	17	.370	8

Central Division

Kansas City	16	11	.593	-
Detroit	14	12	.538	1 1/2
Minnesota	13	14	.481	3
Chicago	12	13	.480	3
Cleveland	10	17	.370	6

West Division

Seattle	14	12	.538	-
Texas	14	12	.538	-
Los Angeles	12	13	.480	1 1/2
Oakland	9	15	.375	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	14	10	.583	-
Florida	15	12	.556	1/2
New York	12	13	.480	2 1/2
Atlanta	11	15	.423	4
Washington	7	17	.292	7

Central Division

St. Louis	17	10	.630	-
Milwaukee	15	12	.556	2
Chicago	14	12	.538	2 1/2
Cincinnati	14	12	.538	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	12	14	.462	4 1/2
Houston	11	15	.423	5 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	20	8	.714	-
San Francisco	13	12	.520	5 1/2
San Diego	12	15	.444	7 1/2
Arizona	11	16	.407	8 1/2
Colorado	10	15	.400	8 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Houston 10, Washington 10, tie, 11 innings
San Francisco 6, Chicago Cubs 2
Milwaukee 8, Pittsburgh 5
N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 3
Cincinnati 7, Florida 0
Philadelphia 10, St. Louis 7
San Diego 2, Colorado 1, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 3, Arizona 1
Toronto 10, Cleveland 6
Tampa Bay 6, Baltimore 3
Texas 7, Seattle 2, 10 innings
Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 3
Detroit 9, Minnesota 0
Kansas City 8, Chicago White Sox 7, 11 innings
L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Awards Night

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and supporters of Docomo Pacific/The Set pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion. Also in the photo are Budweiser's Jojo Camacho, second right, and league commissioner Gabriel White, second left.

Kurt Sablan of The Set, which designed Docomo Pacific's uniforms, and James Lee pose with their championship trophy.

Gabriel White of the Ol'Aces is all smiles as he receives their runner-up trophy from Jojo Camacho of league sponsor Budweiser.

Finals MVP Mark Wallace, center, of Docomo Pacific, is joined in a group photo by his son, Gabriel White, left, and Jojo Camacho, right.

Jomary Tumaquip, left, Jericho Cruz, center, and Keoni Charition, right, receive their pennant trophy.

The league's best rebounder, Syl Teregeyo of the Runnin' Rebels.

Jose Tumaquip of the Runnin' Rebels had 58 feeds to take the best in assists trophy.

The CNMI Nationals' Jomary Tumaquip was awarded the best in steals trophy.

Boy Garcia of Diamond Auto Care holds their third place trophy.

Celis, Lebria stand out in softball league

Freedom Air's Roy Celis and Finances Liz Lebria were busy during the awards ceremony for the Budweiser 2008-2009 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron scores 34 in Cavaliers win over Hawks

The Cleveland Cavaliers shook off some rust, and then the Atlanta Hawks.

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Geckos stun Eagles in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School claimed its first varsity title after pulling off a 41-31 upset over Grace Christian Academy in the finals of the boys high school division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After a neck-and-neck battle in the first half, the Geckos took control of the game in the closing minutes of the third period and hung in there until the final buzzer to gain their first championship since joining the league in early 2000.

It was a sorry loss for the Eagles, who defeated the Geckos twice in the regular season and took the pennant with an impressive 7-1 record. GCA had another bridesmaid finish this year after losing to Mt. Carmel School in last year's finals, 54-64.

SIS was ranked third in the regular season with its 4-4 re-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The SIS Geckos celebrate their title win against the GCA Eagles in the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MVA: No decision yet on XTERRA renewal

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Marianas Visitors Authority has not made a decision yet on whether they will bring back the XTERRA Saipan Championship next year, according to its managing director Perry Tenorio.

Tenorio

In fact, Tenorio said MVA needs to meet with local organizer Taga, Inc. so the two could thresh out the details of the 2010 edition of XTERRA Saipan, long touted as the crown jewel of the XTERRA Global Tour.

"The MVA has not yet had an opportunity to sit down with the organizing committee to discuss next year's event. We hope to do that soon so that I can bring the matter up before the board of directors," said Tenorio in an e-

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BANMI secures Joeten, IT&E sponsorships

MARK RABAGO

FIBA Oceania secretary general Steven Smith is joined by Michael White, his counterpart from the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, and Gabriel White in receiving gold sponsorship checks from Joeten Enterprises, above, and IT&E.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI business anchors Joeten Enterprises and IT&E have signed on as gold sponsors for next month's 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael White was joined by no less than his counterpart from FIBA Oceania, Steven Smith, in accepting the donations from the two companies the past couple of days.

Last Tuesday, White, Smith, and BANMI's Gabriel White received the $5,000 gold sponsorship check from Joeten Enterprises at the company's headquarters in Susupe.

"We're extremely grateful for Joeten's support. They've always been staunch supporters of the athletic community as well as other good and worthy causes here in the Northern Marianas. We're extremely grateful for their support of our tournament," said Michael White after the check presentation.

Joeten Enterprises' gold sponsorship was made through Joeten Charitable Foundation. The company has always been active in supporting sports and community events. It was also one of the major sponsors in the 2006 Micronesian Games and also helped in the staging of the 2008 Oceania Athletics Championships last year.

Yesterday morning, Michael and Gabriel White joined Smith in accepting IT&E's $5,000 donation at the telecommunications company's Middle Road office.

"We're really grateful for IT&E's support they've been a pillar of sports in the community and we're really happy we have them on board for this tournament. It's going to be a good tournament and it would even be better with IT&E's support," said Michael White.

IT&E marketing manager Kathryn

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8 triumph in IT&E tennis tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Around 70 players participated in the 2009 IT&E Summer Tennis Tournament with eight ruling their respective divisions after two days of competition at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Making it to the champions' list were junior players Julia Ishikawa, Seiya Eda, and Daniel Park, Sue Knecht, Vickie Izuka, Lydia Tan, Chris Fizer, and Dong Ik Jang.

Julia Ishikawa notched the Level 1 division title after beating Jin Tong in the finals, 6-3. Ishikawa first won over Mimi Sakano in the Round of 16, 6-0, downed Taylor Knecht in the quarterfinals, 6-2, and topped Lance Chingkoe in the semis, 6-2.

In Level 2 division, Eda defeated Sakura Imaya in the finals, 6-4. Eda started her title bid with a 6-3 victory over Alina Ishikawa in the first round and nailed her second win after thumping Kui Lee in the quarterfinals, 6-3. Eda advanced to the title game after prevailing over Tomo Hatamata in the semis, 6-3. Alex Park finished third after slipping past Hatamata in the consolation game, 6-3.

The Level 3 division title went to Daniel Park, who posted three wins to claim the championship. He first thwarted Quintin Ramsey in the quarterfinals, 8-3, downed Kennedy

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